



Laptops stolen in raid included beer-making recipes

# THIEVES TARGET MICRO-BREWERY

By Alex Ross

**A MICRO-brewery was broken in to by thieves who took cash and laptops containing vital beer recipes.**

The offenders struck at the Green Duck Beer Company in Stourbridge in an early morning raid on Friday, on the eve of the Gainsborough Trading Estate brewery's Oktoberfest beer festival.

They smashed through the double glazed glass door of the brewery's office.

Once inside, they took around £100 worth of takings and two laptops, one with the recipes stored on.

The business brews five beers on the site, which also includes a real ale and keg bar.

Director Nathan Kiszka said: "We think this was opportunistic thieves – anyone who is offered laptops for cheap, please let us or the police know."

The brewery makes its own five cask ales, namely Duck & Dive, Duck & Cover, Duck Blonde, Duck Under and Duck Dastardly. They also run a monthly guest beer, which is this month Duck Dazzling Chocolate Stout.

Mr Kiszka said: "It's annoying that beer recipes which link up to our machines here were also on one of the laptops. There was no way to back them up, so they are gone with the laptops."

## Complex

"We have the recipes in terms of what goes in the beers, but the computer provides the timings to control the brewing process."

"It is a complex mechanism and we are working hard on it. The beers will still be the same."

Mr Kiszka said he discovered the break-in on arriving at the business at 6am.

There was no CCTV – a situation the bosses have already changed to protect the site.

He said: "The offenders had kicked through the double glazed window of the door."

"It would have taken five minutes to smash through so they must have been determined."

"We've never been targeted before, it's frustrating on the eve of the beer festival."

Mr Kiszka said one of the laptops the offenders made off with had also contained a barmaid's university dissertation.

Around 500 people attended the festival.

The brewery company was launched three years ago. It took four months for the team to convert the former engineering unit.

It is split down the middle with a glass wall – with fermenting tanks to make the firm's speciality beers on one side, and a lounge to cater for up to 120 people the other.

## SPOOKY THRILLS AND SPILLS AT GLASS CONE



Visitor services manager Sarah Hall gets ready for the Halloween activities at Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge

GHOSTS, monsters and spooky thrills are on offer to visitors brave enough to visit Red House Glass Cone this half term.

The popular attraction located in Wordsley will be transformed into a scary setting for the events ranging from a zombie family day to a glass fusion session.

Sarah Hall, visitor services manager at the museum, got in the spirit as she posed up for a picture in studio 14.

Today (Thursday), there's a glass fusion session, where children can make a fused glass ghost or zombie. Sessions run at 10.30

and 11.30am and 1 and 2pm, cost £4.25 per child and must be booked in advance. There will be a free drop-in spooky duck trail around the site until Sunday, suitable for those aged three and over.

## Treat

As part of the trail young explorers will be able to watch glass makers conjure creations from liquid glass.

For the first time ever, the attraction is hosting a pre-bookable trick and treat session for ages four-plus from 11am – 4pm on both

Saturday and Sunday. They cost £2.35 per child. Some of the cone's studio artists will be running workshops too.

Sarah Cannings of Saz's Ceramics will be running pottery painting and craft workshops today and tomorrow (Friday), including a little hoot 'trick or treat' box, a Frankenstein Can-it, a deco patch drop in, clay day skull mugs and a Halloween owl. Prices range from £7.50 to £15. Call 07966 514766 for details and to book a place.

The on-site studios and coffee house will be open for business. Call 07871 515489.

## ELECTION

**MEP rules himself out as UKIP leader**

DUDLEY councillor and West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge has ruled himself out of the UKIP leadership race. He has given his backing Nigel Farage's former deputy Paul Nuttall.

Mr Etheridge said Mr Nuttall was the 'unity candidate' who would bring the party 'back together'.

"Over the weekend we have seen both Suzanne Evans and Paul Nuttall announce they are standing in the election."

"Paul and I share the same values and we have the same supporters."

"I think Paul is a good man and is the unity figure that the party needs."

Mr Etheridge was previously considering standing in the second election which was called after Diane James resigned after just 18 days. He will now work on Mr Nuttall's campaign.

## OPERATION

**Park searched in knives crackdown**

POLICE hunted for knives in a Black Country park following a series of stabbings over the last fortnight.

Officers were out in Priory Park in Dudley checking hedges, undergrowth and other potential hideaways for signs of weapons. Officers were at the site on the back of three stabbings in the space of eight days in Dudley borough.

Sergeant Adam Austin, who was leading the search in Priory Park, said: "We have been making sweeps of public spaces looking for weapons which may have been stored anywhere."

The crackdown on knife crime also saw officers visit the Merry Hill shopping centre on Wednesday, where a 16-year-old boy was able to buy seven knives.

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# MP calls for amnesty after stabbings

A DULEY has pledged to raise in Parliament the issue of knife crime in the Black Country. It comes after a teenager was knifed in the fifth stabbing in just two weeks across the region.

Police are investigating after an 18-year-old was stabbed in Pleck, Walsall at around 8pm on Saturday.

He is believed to have been approached by a group of men in Wednesbury Road and then followed down Ford Street where the assault is thought to have taken place.

MP for Dudley South, Mike Wood, has been so shocked at the recent stabbings spate that he is tabling a question on the issue for the Home Office, and calling for a knife amnesty. The Conservative

MP said: "I am currently tabling a question to the Home Office, to highlight the rise in stabbings to police ministers.

"The sentencing on stabbings is clear, but what we need to do is to remind people that if you carry a knife then you are looking at prison.

"I'm calling for a knife amnesty to try and reduce the number of these weapons which are on the streets as much as we can.

"I am also writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner encouraging the amnesty."

Mr Wood said he would also try to put the question of an amnesty before Theresa May at Prime Minister's Questions.

He confirmed his constituents had expressed

fears to him over the rise in knife attacks and fatalities in the area.

"These are particularly concerning for local people," said Mr Wood. "Whilst it does appear in most of the cases the victims and the attackers are known to each other, it is not always the case, and people are understandably growing increasingly worried about their safety."

West Midlands Police are appealing for information about the latest stabbing in Pleck on Saturday. Det Sgt Adam Keen, said: "We are in the early stages of our investigation and I am urging anyone who witnessed this to come forward."

Anyone with any information is urged to call West Midlands Police on 101.

# Mother: We must get tough on knife crime

**THE mother of murder victim Tom Kirwan has called for tougher sentences for knife crime after new figures showed a dramatic rise in the number of incidents involving blades across the West Midlands.**

The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that 37 out of 44 police forces in England and Wales recorded a rise in offences involving knives and sharp instruments in the year to June.

While knife crime rose by nine per cent nationally, with nearly one in five of the extra offences taking place in the West Midlands.

Emer Kirwan, whose son Tom was stabbed to death outside the former Uhera Club in Wolverhampton in July 2012, said it was 'heartbreaking' to see the high levels of knife crime in the region. Her son's killer has never been found.

## Distressing

"A lot of people think they can carry a weapon around and not get prosecuted," she said. "There should be stiffer sentences for anyone who is found carrying a knife.

"How any normal person can go around carrying a knife and use it on another person is beyond me. Something has got to be done because the problem is clearly getting worse."

In the last month alone there have been three stabbings in the space of eight days in Dudley borough. Mansoor Mahmood, 24, died after he was stabbed in the stomach in Brierley Hill, a 22-year-old man was stabbed in Lower Gornal and an 18-year-old critically injured in a stabbing in Sedgley.

There was also a stabbing on a bus in West Bromwich, which led to a 16-year-old boy requiring hospital treatment, while in September 23-year-old Mircea Gheorghe Cozmiuc was knifed to death in Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton. All



Murder victim Tom Kirwan



Mircea Gheorghe Cozmiuc



Schoolgirl Christina Edkins



Herman 'Louis' Simpson

of the incidents took place after the ONS figures were compiled, sparking fears that knife crime across the region could be getting worse.

The force has waged a long-running battle to rid the streets of violent crime, with the region having seen a number of high profile stabbings. They include Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins, who was fatally stabbed in the chest by Phillip Simelane, of Walsall, while travelling to

school on the No.9 bus along Hagley Road, in Edgbaston, on March 7, 2013.

Her great uncle Chris Melia, said: "It is distressing to see that more and more people are going through the same distressing experience as ours. It seems there is still not enough resources being put into stopping knife crime."

Earlier this year Darren Parker, who was 43, was killed after being

knifed in West Bromwich, while in October 2015 Herman 'Louis' Simpson, 46, was stabbed to death in his home Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton South East MP Pat McFadden, said: "I think these figures will strike fear into the heart of every parent. Whenever there is a rise in the crime rate we have to take it very seriously. We all know that knives can end lives and cause endless heartbreak."

# Consultation over taking greens from council hands

BOWLING greens and croquet lawns in Stourbridge could be taken out of Dudley council hands and maintained by clubs instead, saving the cash-strapped authority around £48,000 a year.

Bosses are to launch a public consultation on whether the greens and lawns that are part of The Ernest Stevens Trust should be leased to members.

Council chief say around £48,000 per year would be saved if leases were transferred. It could mean clubs taking over the day-to-day running and general maintenance of the land.

Members of The Sons of Rest at Mary Stevens Park have objected, saying they go against the park's deed of gift.

Bowls secretary Roger Wynne said: "A legal lease is already in place with the deed of gift and its conditions. We cannot maintain the greens ourselves as we are all senior citizens and most there would be the need for chemicals and safety equipment and its just something we could not take on."

The survey also asks whether a restriction on ball games in the park on Sundays and Good Fridays should be lifted. Councillor Hilary Bills, for environmental services, said: "We have been trying to work with the clubs for two years now and we feel that this could be the best way for it to work."

The two-week consultation will start next Monday and run until November 13. It will be discussed further as part Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee tonight (Thursday) at Dudley Council House.

# Carve out chance for zoo discount

DUDLEY Zoo is offering discounted group admission for up to four people if they bring a carved pumpkin for its Halloween pumpkin patch.

An animal adoption of the winner's choice is up for grabs for the best design.

Running until Sunday, visitors will be able to follow a trail around the 40-acre site and receive a treat at the end.

There'll be eerie arts and crafts in the spooky farm barn and the chance to design a pumpkin poster in the Queen Mary Restaurant. Visitors can also come face-to-face with creepy critters in the Ghoulish Go Wild! Show running daily at 11.30am and 2.15pm.

The zoo will also be raising money for its snow leopard enclosure extension appeal by running a daily raffle for the chance to feed pumpkin to the animals.

# Community forum meetings staged

DUDLEY Council hosts community forums for Cosely East and Sedgley in the Age Concern base in Ettymore Road, Sedgley, and for Gornal and Upper Gornal Pensioners' Club, Kent Street on Monday from 6.30pm.

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## Takeaways among the highest in Black Country

BRIERLEY Hill has among the highest amount of takeaways in one ward for the whole of the Black Country, new figures have revealed.

The Public Health England figures show Brierley Hill has 37 takeaways, making it one of the highest for wards across the whole West Midlands.

In total Dudley has 81.7 takeaways per 100,000 people, ranking it the 12th highest out of 30 towns and cities in the West Midlands. There are 258 takeaways in the borough.

Current figures state around 70 per cent of the city is overweight with some 50 per cent not physically active.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and well-being, said the council was doing what it could to control the mix of restaurants in key areas but that it was limited to work within a national framework.

She said: "Dudley Council wants our borough residents to benefit from eating well and leading an active lifestyle which is why we have produced planning for health guidance to reduce the number of hot food takeaways opening in close proximity to schools and oversubscribed town centres. The council endeavours to control the retail mix in key areas but can only work within the national planning framework.

"Our Dudley Food for Health awards also trains and then publicly recognises hot food providers offering healthy alternatives and educates businesses on how to promote and provide foods that are lower in salt, sugar and fat."

## Exhibition under way at Glass Cone

A GLASS exhibition has opened in Stourbridge.

The Guild of Glass Engravers is returning to the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley with a new selection of pieces.

This exhibition features work by members of the Stourbridge and Midlands branch and the South West branch of the Guild.

The pieces range from elaborate, large scale items to small Christmas decorations and most of the pieces are for sale.

The exhibition started on October 23 and runs until Friday, January 13.

The venue is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday and 11am to 4pm at the weekends. Admission is free.

## Match offer for fireworks night

STOURBRIDGE Rugby Club is offering free admission for a game with tickets for its bonfire. The Chester game on November 5 follows the bonfire from 6pm the day before at Stourton Park. Tickets are £5 or £2.50.

# Carer shortlisted for Teen Hero award



Nominees with DJs and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor

A BLACK Country teenager who spends more than five hours a day caring for three of his family members was nominated for a top award – and met the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge ahead of the ceremony.

Alex Griffiths was shortlisted for the BBC Radio 1 Teen Hero Awards, which celebrate the achievements of young people across the country. The ceremony took place on Sunday. The 16-year-old

from Brierley Hill has been a carer since he was just five – helping his mum, Sharon, who has MS, his grandmother Angela, who is a double amputee and his grandfather Albert, who has suffered from a series of strokes.

In between attending school and doing his volunteering work, he cooks meals, cleans the family home, changes his granddad's dressings and helps his nan in and out of her wheelchair. Alex is a part of

Spurgeons' young carers committee, which helps improve the lives of young carers, as well as the services available to them. He speaks at key local events, and at school assemblies, and is a keen supporter of the MS Society, taking part in fundraising activities for the charity.

A commendation from Radio 1 said: "About to start his A-Levels, he hopes to enter medicine and take his role as a carer to a different level."

# Traders force change to town market plans

TRADERS have forced organisers to amend plans for a weekly market in Stourbridge.

LSD Promotions wanted to launch a food and craft market on Thursdays, which would have involved closing the town centre's two main streets, High Street and Market Street, to traffic.

But the plans were withdrawn after the town's chamber of trade was unhappy about the planned road closures.

The company went back to the drawing board and has now revealed plans to move a market it already holds twice a month to the pedestrianised Lower High Street and Coventry Street, and to make it a weekly event each Saturday.

Original plans for the Thursday market were unveiled last year. LSD wanted to have stalls lining High Street and Market Street in a bid to attract more shoppers to the town. But the chamber of trade voiced its concerns.

There were mixed views to the market proposals from traders but some were concerned about High Street being out of action to vehicles and the impact that would have on businesses.

### Discus

Dermot McGillicuddy, from LSD Promotions, said: "The traders were not opposed to the market but they didn't want High Street closed. If we are up by the clock we won't have to close the road."

"We believe to have a Thursday market we would have had to close the road."

"We want to get the Saturday market running then maybe we can look again at the Thursday market and discuss it again with businesses. We will see if it is something we can explore again, maybe next year."

LSD currently holds a market on the first and third Saturday of the month at the top of Market Street, near Chicago's restaurant. It now wants to move it to a more prominent location as well as make it a weekly event.

Councillors will decide next Tuesday whether to grant consent for the Saturday market on Lower High Street and Coventry Street. It will feature food, crafts and various other goods.

The possibility of holding the market on Saturdays instead was floated by some traders and Stourbridge MP Margot James earlier this year but LSD Promotions initially said it was determined to stick to its Thursday plan.

## Bonfire night to go off with a bang



Councillor Kurshid Ahmed with Kat and Olivia Brew looking forward to the fireworks

BONFIRE night is expected to go off with a big bang again this year at Himley Hall and Park as the venue hosts Dudley Council's 40th bonfire and fireworks event on November 5.

More than 1,500 wooden pallets will be used to build the bonfire. Fireworks will be released to the sound of a big hitting soundtrack, featuring some of the greatest artists of the last 40 years, including Michael Jackson, Davie Bowie, Queen, Coldplay and Adele.

Gates will open at 4.30pm with Heart FM entertaining the crowds

from 6.30. The display is expected to attract around 20,000 visitors. The giant bonfire will be lit at 7.45pm with the fireworks spectacular set to music starting at 8.30pm. A giant funfair and seasonal refreshments will also be on offer.

Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We're really excited about celebrating 40 years of Dudley Council's bonfire and fireworks event and it's great that people who remember going as children

themselves are now taking their children and grandchildren to enjoy the fun."

Tickets are £9 for adults, £4.50 for juniors and senior citizens, while under 5s are free. A family ticket for two adults and two children is £23 and car parking is £3.

A free bus service is available from Dudley, Colesey, Sedgley, Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Stourbridge.

More details at [www.dudley.gov.uk/himleybonfire](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/himleybonfire) or call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 or Himley Hall on 01384 817817.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Book on comedian boosts hospice

A BOOK about the life of Black Country comedy legend Tommy Mundon – who died of Parkinson's disease in 2014 – has sold more than 3,000 copies, raising vital funds for charity.

Proceeds from sales of The Tommy Mundon Story: Spread a Little Happiness, by Angela Daniels, are being donated to Mary Stevens Hospice, in Stourbridge.

It is £9.99 from Ashwood Nurseries, Dancers of Halesowen, Morgan and Co Wollaston, Mary Stevens Hospice shops and at [www.blackcountryrsociety.co.uk/publications](http://www.blackcountryrsociety.co.uk/publications) or Amazon.

### Keeping young safe on travels

YOUNG people have been encouraged to stay safe when using public transport in Dudley borough.

The Travel Smart West Midlands campaign has been set up by a group of Youth Police and Crime Commissioners to inform young people of how to keep safe and what to do if they run into any issues when travelling.

Tips are given to pupils in schools. Young people are invited to discuss their experiences and share tips on safely using public transport via Twitter @travelsmartwm and Facebook /travelsmartWM/

### Spandau star in night at town hall

SPANDAU Ballet star Martin Kemp is heading to the Black Country for an up close and personal evening of conversation.

Kemp, who played Steve Owen in EastEnders and starred in The Krays with brother and bandmate Gary, appears at Stourbridge Town Hall tomorrow night (Friday), from 7.30pm.

He will discuss his life in the public eye and answer questions posed by the audience. For tickets or for more information, call 01384 812812.

### MP pays visit to new supermarket in town

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has visited the town's newly opened Aldi store.

The MP was part of the campaign for planning permission for the new store, which is on the site of the former King Arthur pub and opened last Thursday.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "I used to enjoy going to the King Arthur but it had stood derelict for years, residents wanted it sorted out and I am delighted that this store is now open."

### Halloween activities

A BUILDING society branch is holding a Halloween party for the children of members tomorrow night (Friday).

The event runs at the Dudley Building Society's branch in Abbey Road, Lower Gornal, from 1 to 4pm. It will include meeting a witch and Halloween-themed arts and crafts.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I HAD an invitation from a friend to a lecture on the future of literature which would make the point that old-fashioned ink and paper is dead and the way forward is with the internet. The invitation was on a post-card, in an envelope, with a stamp.

OH, no! Shock, horror! The annual inflation rate is at a two-year high! It has hit (wait for it, cue roll on the drums) one per cent! Some of us of a certain age were unmoved by this week's panic-stricken bleatings of youthful journalists and City experts. That's because we remember 1975 when inflation hit 25 per cent. We all survived.

THIS week the first of the 'children' arrived from the Calais Jungle. They do not look like children. They look more like soldiers. It was a PR disaster. Given the suspicion that the system is being abused by adults posing as children, this was the perfect photo-opportunity for the authorities to bring a group of the sweetest, tiniest and most vulnerable little Jungle children to the UK. Instead of that heart-melting image, we were presented with a column of tall, confident youths. I can think of three explanations. Firstly, there are very few real children with British connections in the Jungle. Secondly, no-one in authority knows how the media works. Or thirdly, no-one connected with the migration programme gives a damn what the British public thinks.

ONE glaring question hangs over Jeremy Corbyn's ongoing furore about Baroness Chakrabarti. It is this: did none of the



“ing” “s” running Corbyn’s “ing” useless PR operation ever watch The Thick of It (BBC)? If they had, they would have realised by now that the storyline of Chakrabarti embarrassing the party by sending her child to private school is a re-run of minister Nicola Murray’s (Rebecca Front) anguish in Armando Iannucci’s darkly brilliant political satire. The big difference is that in real life Corbyn is lacking the hyperactively foul-mouthed spin-doctor Malcolm Tucker (Peter Capaldi) to knock his minions into line. In The Thick of It, Tucker verbally batters the minister into submission, giving her a stark choice between sending her kid to the local comprehensive or packing her bags and heading for the back benches. In the finest traditions of Westminster, Nicola Murray puts career before kids. Rule one of politics: never embarrass the party.

AFTER my recent piece on the 770-calorie sandwich, a reader sends me the menu he took from a chippie in Glasgow. The bill of fare begins: “Chips. Chips and cheese. Chips and curry/gravy. Chips, cheese and curry. Deep-fried Mars Bar.” In some parts of Glasgow life expectancy is 57. I’m amazed they last that long.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Club to make way for bigger car park

HALESOWEN Members Club is to be demolished so that Lidl on Hagley Road can extend its car park.

The plans to demolish the club were approved at Dudley Council's development control committee last week after a vote. The demolition is going ahead despite concerns over the loss of the venue, which dates back to the 1950s, as well as worries over congestion on Hagley Road.

The approved application follows a previous attempt by the supermarket to increase the car park capacity by 75 spaces, refused in February. The proposals were amended with a new application instead for 57 parking spaces to be created.

The applicants changed the design of the access to address concerns over increased traffic and added a pedestrian refuge.

There was praise for the applicants from committee member Councillor David Stanley, who said: "I am very pleased with Lidl. They haven't gone to appeal, they have gone back to work on the plans."

But Councillor Simon Phipps regretted the loss of a well-established meeting place and venue, and warned that modifications would not solve traffic problems.



The Halesowen Members Club

# Hickory's Smokehouse to rise from the ashes

Report by David Cosgrove

**WORK has started to rebuild fire-wrecked restaurant in Wall Heath – as bosses confirmed a re-opening date for the venue.**

Hickory's Smokehouse in Kidderminster Road was devastated by a blaze in August sparked by a fault in a refrigeration unit.

Signs on railings fencing off the site now warn passers-by to keep out as 'demolition is in progress'.

But bosses have explained that 'minor demolition works' for the worst affected areas of the American style eatery are now under way.

Rebuilding work is due to start later this year with the hope of reopening in July 2017.

Hickory's Smokehouse manager Kris Perrin said: "We are so excited to be re-building the restaurant here in Wall Heath.

"We have had such an incredible amount of support from guests, residents and business colleagues in the area they have really given us the encouragement to raise from the ashes as it were and create a brand new Hickory's for the whole community."

The restaurant will be rebuilt, with work due to be completed by the middle of next year with a re-launch date in July.

A total of 15 fire crews were called to deal with the blaze with around 100 firefighters on the scene at its height.

Firefighters remained on the scene for more than 15 hours, while the A449 was closed in both directions as a result of the blaze.

## Evacuated

Guests in 22 rooms at the Kingfisher restaurant and hotel complex next door were evacuated, while the fire service advised people in the local area to keep their windows closed.

The restaurant only opened in November last year, replacing iconic nightspot the Kingfisher Club.

A Hickory's spokesman said: "The Hickory's Smokehouse team have now confirmed that minor demolition works for the worst affected areas of the Wall Heath site are now under way, in order to allow building work to start in late autumn.

"They are delighted to confirm that due to the overwhelming level of support they have received from the local area they will be rebuilding the restaurant and work is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2017 with a proposed re-launch date of July."

Kingswinford Councillor Dave Tyler said: "It's good news to hear that Hickory's is planning to reopen."



Devastation inside Hickory's Smokehouse after the blaze that wrecked the restaurant in Wall Heath

## Glitz and glamour in charity night

A NIGHT of glitz and glamour will be held in Dudley to help raise funds to support a cancer charity this weekend.

The Venue, based in Dudley high street, opposite Top Church, is hosting a Great Gatsby Ball on Saturday.

Money from the night, organised by marketing and events manager Xenna Sowka and her colleague Kash Deo, will bring in cash for Cancer Research UK. Together, they aim to raise £5,000 after both having personal experiences of cancer with close family members.

Along with their resident DJ, Kevin Bingham,

there will also be entertainment from trio band the Miss Fortunes. There will also be large auction with prizes including sporting memorabilia.

The tickets will include a hot pork buffet. Guests are invited to dress in vintage clothing and sharp suits.

Tickets can be bought from The Venue Box Office which is at 171-173 High Street, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1QD.

They are also available by calling 01384 453101. Tickets are £20 for adults, and £10 for children under 10.

This sum includes entry and the buffet.

# Ceremony to honour youngsters' triumphs

A DUDLEY charity is holding a special awards night to recognise the children they help and their triumphs over adversity.

Tappy Twins, a community interest company with charitable status and based in Brierley Hill, was set up by Suzanne Skeete to support vulnerable youngsters. She has also developed Teenline to help adolescents.

It works with children online, in schools and organisations, to help them overcome any negative experiences, trauma and everyday worries.

Suzanne and her team achieve this through a combination of therapies, counselling, coaching and strategies in one-to-one or group sessions.

"I believe that every child deserves to be a child and not exposed to anything that harms them emotionally or physically. It is their right to feel safe, loved and happy," said Suzanne.

"There are countless young people out there who don't have this right and are very unhappy and need someone to talk to and help them.

"This is why Tappy Twins, Tappy Town and Teenline were born. They act as a platform for any young person to visit and get the support they need when they need it."

The charity has developed the Courageous Kids Awards, to give the youngsters a special night and to highlight their achievements.

The black tie event is at Edgbaston Cricket Ground on November 12 and includes a three-course meal and entertainment. Tickets are available at eventbrite.com

## Co-op to put store on land at pub

A CO-OP store will be built on a pub car park after the plans were approved by councillors.

The shop would be built next to the Hare and Hounds, on Wynall Lane, Wollescote, after an application by owners New River Retail.

The Hare and Hounds will continue to trade as usual despite the store being built next door.

Wollescote councillor Richard Body said he was disappointed at the decision. He said: "The pub relies on people being able to park. If they can't park they won't go."

He added: "The extra traffic will make both junctions leading onto the main road even more dangerous."

A supermarket will also be built on the car park of the Ashwood Inn, in Wordsley.

## Sunday ball game park bans could be lifted

A BAN on ball games on Sundays at four parks in the Dudley borough could be lifted by the council. They are launching consultation on historic bans at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge, Stevens Parks in Wollescote, Quarry Bank and Homer Hill Park.

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## Scotty T on way to town nightclub

THE winner of Celebrity Big Brother 2016 Scotty T is visiting a Stourbridge nightclub tomorrow (Friday).

The reality television star, real name Scott Timlin, will be at Chicago's at the Ryemarket, for a Halloween night special, called Quarantine Outbreak, on Friday. Tickets are on sale for £6 for the event, which runs from 8pm until 3am.

The hunky 28-year-old from Newcastle-upon-Tyne originally found fame in the controversial reality TV series *Geordie Shore* and also featured in *Ex On The Beach*.

## Football heroes in charity match

WOLVES legends will take on Dudley Town Football Club in a match to raise money for charity next month.

A team organised by ex-Wolves star Mel Eves will take to the field at the Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill on Sunday, November 27, from 2.30pm.

Dudley Town will be raising money for various charities, including Dudley Fibro which supports people suffering from the painful condition fibromyalgia.

Tickets cost £5 adults and £3 concessions, available on the day or can be booked by calling (01384) 226063.

## Boss Design wins an export award

DUDLEY-BASED office furniture manufacturer Boss Design Group has won the inaugural export award from The Furniture Makers Company.

The award was presented to Boss at a special export and growth event organised by the British Furniture Confederation at the House of Commons this month.

A second presentation of the award was also to take place at the Furniture Makers' Royal charter dinner in London this week.

## 1066 and all that is focus of history day

A STUDY day on the Norman conquest and 1066 is being held at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre on Saturday.

It will include a look at Dudley and the surrounding area in the *Domesday Book*, the Norman invaders' first census of their newly-conquered lands.

Medieval historian and archaeologist Dr John Hunt will take part in the event at the Tipton Road centre from 10am. It costs £25 per person and places can be booked (01384) 812368.

## Sci-fi author visits

AUTHOR Clare Morrall will be in Dudley to talk about her latest novel *When The Floods Came*, a post-apocalypse story set in a tower block. The novelist will be at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre, Tipton Road, on November 30 at 6.30pm. Tickets are £3 from (01384) 812770.

# Man jailed for pool cue attack outside pub

A FATHER has been jailed for six years after attacking a man with a pool cue at a pub on New Year's Eve.

CCTV played at Wolverhampton Crown Court showed how 32-year-old Craig Davies, of Hildene Road, Kingswinford, snapped a pool cue which he then used to repeatedly strike a man.

The attack at the Lawnswood pub on Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, on December 31, left the victim with wounds to his head.

Prosecutor Mr Paul Farrow said that there were around 100 people in the pub celebrating New Year when, at about 10.40pm, the victim walked outside to have a cigarette.

"He can remember being outside for 10 minutes, but then he can't remember anything until he was being treated by paramedics," said Mr Farrow. In a statement, the victim said that as a result he initially had difficulty hearing and had been scared to go outside.

Although Davies initially gave a 'no comment' interview, he later pleaded guilty to both wounding with intent and possession of an offensive weapon. The CCTV showed the defendant breaking the snooker cue and heading outside.

For Davies, Miss Nicole Steers said he had no history of violent behaviour. She said: "Something happened between the complainant and his (Davies') sister. He lost his temper and responded in the way he did."

He was also given 12 months to run concurrently with the other sentence for possession of an offensive weapon.

## Free boat trips for caverns light show

FREE boat trips into the canal tunnels and mines under Dudley's Castle Hill are being offered on Saturday, November 5.

Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust will be running the 30-minute trips as part of its first Festival of Light, supported by the Celebrate programme of the Big Lottery Fund.

The famous limestone caverns will be illuminated and there will be music and light shows for visitors by narrowboat to watch.

The boats will depart every half hour from the trust's base off Birmingham New Road from 10.30am. Booking is not required and tickets will not be sold in advance with boats filling on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Halloween fancy dress pub party

A BLACK Country pub is offering a prize for the best fancy dress outfit at its Halloween party night. The event is being held in The Chapel House in Ruiton Street, Lower Gornal, on tomorrow evening (Friday).

# Victim shocked as pervert flees country

ONE of the victims of a perverted Black Country religious leader is worried that he will assault more children after fleeing the country.

Paedophile Hafiz Rahman, 58, was found guilty of five charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court earlier this month.

But after the jury found him guilty in his absence, as he claimed he was too ill to attend court, perverted Rahman boarded a flight to Bangladesh to avoid being sentenced.

Rahman was the imam at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath. He was convicted of crimes against the girls in the 1980s, when he was supposed to be giving them religious instruction.

One of his victims, who was under 10 at the time

she was preyed upon, says she is 'angry and frustrated' by Rahman's escape from justice.

Speaking at her semi-detached home in the West Midlands, the mother-of-one - who uses the pen name Nabila Sharma - said her relief at Rahman's conviction was followed by shock at his escape.

### Warned

"When I heard he was guilty it was as if a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders. The fact that those 12 jurors believed me and it only took 20 minutes for them to decide shows I was right," she said. But Ms Sharma was shocked that Rahman had been able to travel to Bangladesh, adding that she had warned police he would run away.

# Councillors reject sports ground parking proposal

**A CONTROVERSIAL plan to create a new car park at a sports ground in Stourbridge has been thrown out due to fears over traffic and safety.**

The proposal for the King Edward VI playing fields in Oldswinford had looked set to go ahead after being backed by planning officers, but was turned down by councillors who were not satisfied with the plans.

The scheme, put forward by trustees of the King Edward VI College, would have seen 15 parking spaces created to serve its playing fields. But it led to a backlash from nearby residents who feared vehicles pulling in and out of the car park on Oakleigh Road could create a hazard on what they believe is already a dangerous junction with Love Lane.

A total of 534 people signed a petition against the proposals while 70 letters of objection were also lodged with the council. They claimed there have been a number of near misses on the road and that drivers often break the 30mph speed limit. Concerns were also raised about the potential for an increase in on-street parking.

Officers at Dudley Council suggested that creation of the car park would not impact on road safety and recommended approval.

### Unanimously

But councillors disagreed and unanimously voted to reject the proposals.

Councillor Paul Bradley, from the committee, said allowing the plan to go ahead would have been 'unfair' on residents.

He added: "We had a site visit, which always tells us more than looking at the plans on a screen. We could see the geography of it."

"If the car park was on that side of the playing fields all the cars would end up on Oakleigh Road and Love Lane. It was only 15 spaces so it would end up parking on the road. It would have been detrimental. It was ill thought out."

Councillor Heather Rogers said she hoped residents and trustees could reach an agreement over the fields and believes it would be more suitable to create an entrance on Swinford Road and more parking spaces by moving the football pitches.

She added: "The access from Oakleigh Road would have been extremely dangerous. The issue can be resolved if the trustees and residents get together and have a chat about it."

## Shock at trail of dumped rubbish



**A discarded doll's head adds a macabre touch to this shocking scene of rubbish dumped on Turner's Hill**

THIS is not an official rubbish dump or landfill site but open land in the heart of the Black Country where an incredible amount of rubbish has been dumped by fly-tippers.

The trail of rubbish extends for dozens of metres at Turner's Hill in Rowley Regis.

The piles of rubbish at the site, off Portway Hill, is just a short distance from the huge phone mast.

The scale of the mess has outraged people in the area.

A stunned Councillor Maria Crompton said: "It's absolutely disgusting. If it was brought in a lorry or van it must have been several lots

### Clean-up

"Somebody must have seen something. If anyone did, I hope they will come forward."

The clean-up process has been made complicated as it is not clear who owns the site, although the land is thought to be owned by telecoms giant BT.

Councillor Crompton said it was the worst example of fly-tipping she had ever seen and it is unclear how long it will take to be cleared.

Councillor Crompton added: "Environmental Health and the security people have been informed."

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# Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership



Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Stourbridge & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes

good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews

Smile? No Lily you make me grimace!

MIGHT I take this opportunity to apologise, on behalf of my country, for Lily Allen. I would like to say sorry for what she has put millions of people through, for the pompous, self-indulgent navel-gazing in Calais, and thinking that a few hit records gives her the right to speak for the rest of us. But most of all for that ghastly, irritating, Smile song.

THE question mark about the age of some of the supposed child refugees at Calais reminds me of a rather embarrassing incident at a non-league football ground when I was in my late 20s. Keen not to miss the start of the game, I split up with my friends and headed for the turnstile with the shortest queue, where I was greeted by a decidedly off-hand match official. "Four pounds, sir," he said with a curled lip, struggling to contain his contempt. On meeting up with my group inside the ground, I observed what good value the tickets were. At which point it was pointed out that I had just gone through the gate for children and pensioners.

THE past quarter of a century has not been a vintage period for American presidents. Barack Obama's eight years in the White House have been largely forgettable, Bill Clinton's remembered only for a sex scandal, and George W Bush's tenure is, well, probably best forgotten altogether.

But the latest two contenders take it to a whole new level. In a country with a population of 320 million, could they really not have come up with better than this pair? A boorish billionaire against the bolshie wife of an unloved former president. It's the American equivalent of putting up Mike Ashley against Cherie Blair. In any normal circumstances, putting forward either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump as your candidate would guarantee victory to the other side. But here they both are, with very little to say about actual policy, trading insults in some ghastly race to the bottom.

If I were an American, I wouldn't vote for either of them. A polite abstention would surely be the best response. Something we would do well to remember next time somebody suggests making voting compulsory in this country.

GLASS half full, or half empty? On the one hand, Dudley has the fifth worst town centre of its size in the country for empty shops, with more than 20 per cent. There is also no major department store, and while the much-vaunted light rail centre has finally been given the go-ahead, it will no longer link up with the national rail network, meaning it will continue to be the largest town in the country with no train link. Still, on the positive side, it has been shortlisted for a prestigious international competition for urban lighting...



The indoor swimming pool with a spa bath



A light and airy relaxation area also has room to eat



Elegance is feature of hallway with wooden staircases

# £4m – city’s most expensive home

The cost of this mansion will beat the previous record by half a million pounds, as JAMIE BRASSINGTON reports

**PLANS to build a £4 million mansion have been given the green light by planners – which will make it the most expensive residential property to ever go on the city’s property market.**

The seven-bedroom estate in Edgbaston will feature a swimming pool, steam room, hot tub, sauna, gym and a squash court. Birmingham City Council has given developers Woodbourne Group the go-ahead to start work on the 46 Westfield Road property. It will be in 0.75 acres of land in the leafy suburb. The mansion has been given an estimated value of almost £4.1million. This beats the previous record in the city by half a million pounds, which was a property located in 4 Woodbourne Road.

### Cinema

The new house will boast 10 bathrooms, seven of which will be en suite. It will also feature a drawing room, reception room, family room, dining room, a kitchen diner, dedicated laundry room, utility rooms, cloak store, an entrance hall and a tandem garage.

Buyers will also be able to enjoy a cinema, table tennis and snooker room and a luxury garden building. The mansion is due to be completed by early 2018. The start of its development marks the first stage in a £31.7million-pound pipeline for Woodbourne Group since the relaunch of its development arm earlier this year.

Woodbourne Group’s new expansion plan is being spearheaded by 24-year-old entrepreneur, Tani Dulay, who said: “We’re very excited to get this project in motion. “As a family business that is committed to the region, delivering exceptional service,



Seven-bedroom estate with luxury garden building in a leafy suburb will boast a gym and squash court among the many facilities

backed by quality and design is crucial. Number 46 Westfield Road, whilst a significant project in it’s own right, is just a small step in the right direction for the company.

“Experience across the board culminated with our start-up mentality positions us well to deliver in a post-Brexit landscape.

“The UK still has the foundations for a boom in house building and we remain committed to meeting these needs.”

Detailed illustrations for the property show how the inside would look.

Both the interior and exterior of the building have been recreated using computer-generated imagery, or CGI. One picture shows

a white hallway with gleaming marble floors with wooden doors and golden decor.

Another shows an image of the swimming pool area and a spacious relaxation area with white-coloured furniture. The front and rear of the mansion has also been illustrated, which shows a sprawling back garden.

### Affluent

The suburb of Edgbaston has been traditionally seen as one of the most upmarket and affluent areas of Birmingham.

A family called the Gough-Calthorpe’s controlled the area in the 1800s where they refused factories or warehouses to be built there,

which made it popular with the middle classes. This year, a multi-million-pound mansion in Edgbaston was sold for £2,200,000.


The property, called Aldorham, located at 37 Richmond Hill Road, was bought for the six figure sum in February. It was sold by estate agents Fine and Country.

The 19th century home boasts eight bedrooms and lavish gardens. A mansion, which was thought to have been the home of former Aston Villa manager Paul Lambert, was the most expensive to be sold in Birmingham last year.


The property in Sutton Coldfield was sold for £2,600,000.



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# We don't all learn at the same speed

IT appears that the powers that be are still trying to lump us together.

I was fortunate enough to pass the entrance exam and interview for grammar school against everyone's expectations.

I was not in any way a brilliant student and struggled my way to five GCEs, as the qualifications were then known.

However, some 17 years after leaving school I went to evening classes covering a subject which I had failed at GCE.

I was the oldest in the class and

passed my exam with 86 per cent which gained me a credit. The point I am making is that we do not all learn at the same speed.

Many folk are brilliant from a young age, whatever their background.

Some of us struggle through and learn more slowly.

I feel that by trying to level the playing field in respect to education is quite possibly holding back the more early learners whilst destroying the confidence of the slower ones.

I was a product of a grammar school as was my late brother. He was a quick

learner whilst I developed later in life. However, in spite of being physically disabled, certain of my teachers recognised something in me which they pushed me into doing.

I remember refereeing a game in our gym display and was given minor roles in our school plays.

I doubt that this would have happened if my education had been anything other than it was.

I am, because of this, all in favour of grammar schools.

**LEN HALES**  
Cradley Heath

## Chance for action on tourist tax

THE European Union, together with Switzerland have recently introduced a tourist tax which is applicable to visitors to those countries.

The tax is typically four euros per person per night and at current exchange rates is a charge of £3.77 per night.

A family of four will now have to fund a tax charge of £105.56 for a week's holiday in Spain and other sunspots.

I can find no evidence that we plan a tourist tax on EU visitors to the United Kingdom.

We are still members of the EU and there are no reasons why we should not apply this tax, it would raise much needed money and could reduce the national debt.

Our prime minister, who so far has been very good on talk, now has the opportunity to take action on this tax, which would win approval from all in the UK.

**G A PETERS**  
Brierley Hill

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
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## Tempest ballet was fantastic production

I SAW the Tempest at Birmingham Hippodrome. Leon Burakowski's review insults the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

He writes 'Caliban's costume 'made him look like he'd escaped from a Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer sketch'. From my A-Level studies, I'd say the costume and body features of Caliban in the ballet is how Shakespeare would have imagined.

Mr Burakowski complains of 'the sinking feeling of the horn pipe playing sailors' and 'the orchestra to bash and clatter annoyingly', the headline says 'Tempest caught In the doldrums'. It was a tempest at sea!

Prospero, he writes, 'seemed to do more glaring than dancing in this oddly gloomy production.' Glaring being part of his 'commanding presence', just that, commanding.

How can a storm-wrecked ship not have 'bash and clatter' music.

I've never seen anything like this ballet! An audience member said 'fantastic!' There were numerous encores. The ballet honoured Shakespeare in his 400th anniversary year.

**JACKIE ADAMS**  
Rowley Regis

## Can Tory promises be trusted?

DURING the Conservative party conference in Birmingham, the Prime Minister made several clear promises: To listen to the people, to give more power to local government, to stand up for communities against conglomerates and multi-national companies and to remove inequality in the workplace. She has already broken several of these.

Just prior to the party conference she had promised that the NHS would recruit thousands of foreign nurses and doctors to bolster those in the NHS. Now she wants to restrict foreign medical staff and to recruit more British practitioners, which we clearly don't have.

The Tories promised that the NHS would be safe in their hands, but it is falling apart before our eyes.

We should remember this at the next election. Can we trust any of the Tory promises?

**M CLIFF**  
Wall Heath



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A line-up of Villiers apprentices – picture taken in 1951



The two millionth Villiers engine being presented to the Science Museum



Villiers apprentices in 1958 when 2100 worked for the Company



Sunbeams cycle department with Charles Marston on the left and his father on the right



Villiers engines on display at Tettenhall including a fine cutaway example

# Great name started life making pedals

ONE of the great names in British motorcycle engine production, Villiers Engineering, started life making cycle pedals.

In 1898 John Marston was dissatisfied with the pedals he was fitting to his Sunbeam bicycles. He despatched his son, Charles to America, on a sales trip and to visit Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut, to obtain rights to their superior pedals.

On his return a small japa- nising business in Villiers Street was bought, and turned over to pedal manufacture, supply- ing other makers besides Sun- beam. In 1920, the new compa- ny was sold outright to Charles Marston, and in the same year they developed the first free-

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

wheel, soon to be wanted by all cycle makers.

In 1912 the company made its first engines, a 4-stroke 350cc and a 2-stroke 269cc, and this soon became the main part of Villiers' business, supply- ing engines for motorcycles, generators and many other purposes.

In World War Two, they not only continued supplying their engines for military applica- tions, like generating sets and powerful chainsaws, but made thousands of shell fuses.

After the war they carried on making a variety of en-

gines, the two millionth being made in 1956. In the early 60s the company was taken over by Manganese Bronze and in 1966 merged with AMC to be- come Norton-Villiers, which in turn merged with BSA in 1972 to be come Norton-Villiers-Tri- umph, in a desperate attempt to save the British motorcycle industry fighting a losing bat- tle with Japanese imports.

Norton Commando motor- cycles were even made at the Marston Road works, but it was not to be and the company went into liquidation in 1978. At the Tettenhall Transport Heritage Centre there are Villiers engines on display, and others awaiting restoration. Help from volunteers is sought.



Heads down for the intricate job of inspecting the engine components during the war

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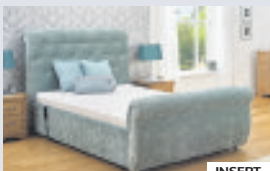
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# Generous help for cancer victim after mugging

A GOOD Samaritan has handed over hundreds of pounds in donations to a terminal cancer patient who was mugged of his pension in broad daylight.

Seventy-eight-year-old Roy Weston was robbed in Brierley Hill after picking up his and his wife Maureen's weekly pension from the post office at around 9.20am on September 12.

Last year grandfather Mr Weston was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer, and the disease has spread to his bones. And, when a man and woman pounced on him outside Pepe's hairdressers in the High Street, he was unable to fight back.

## Tripled

After the mugging was reported, readers offered to make donations, and a crowdfunding page was set up by fellow cancer sufferer David Webb.

He had hoped to raise £200, but has more than tripled this by collecting £600.50.

Mr Webb who was born and raised in Tipton, but did not know the couple beforehand, said: "I've just survived lung cancer myself, with surgery on two thirds of my right lung.

"I was shocked when I read about what happened to Roy, and he is of course terminal, poor guy.

"It was suggested on Facebook that a JustGiving page should be set up for him, and I knew what I was doing having raised £1,500 for cancer research when I was diagnosed.

"We've managed to raise £600.50 for him, and I'm very moved to see everyone's generosity in putting their hands in their pockets."

Mr Webb's kindness was also demonstrated through him driving from his current home in Tunbridge



Dave Webb, left, hands over the £600 to Roy Weston, of Brierley Hill Wells to present the money to Mr Weston in person.

He still managed to get there - with the RAC's help - despite his car breaking down due to an exhaust fault about a mile from his home. "Nothing was going to stop me," added Mr Webb.

The 58-year-old says he is disheartened to hear about the state of crime in the area, where his daughter still lives. "It's shocking to hear about all this going on in Brierley Hill, and now with the stabbing there too," he said.

Touched by the generous response

by so many to his ordeal, Mr Weston, who lives in Brierley Hill, said: "Words can't explain how kind they have been, and now with Dave coming here."

The pensioner added that while he was now going out into town again, the fear attack hadn't gone away.

"I am still getting about, but I'm anxious of people behind me. I've still got a bit of nerves," he said. "But all the people have been so kind."

His daughter Diane added: "The whole family are overwhelmed by this exceptional kindness."

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# Help cancer-stricken cat Betty – rescue centre plea

A CAT rescue centre is appealing for donations to pay for an operation on a stray cat with cancer.

Betty, a 10-year-old moggy from Blakenhall, used to be fed by an elderly lady in Wolverhampton who recently died, leaving the cat without food until she was taken in by the Kats Cradle Cat Rescue.

She was found with sunburned ears which has caused cancer and a tumour on her leg.

The rescue centre is now looking to raise £400 so Betty can have two operations, one to remove the majority of her ears and another to remove the tumour on her leg.

Debbie Brookes-Hemans, owner of Kats Cradle in Coven who has taken in the cat, said: "We first were called out 10 days ago and when we found her she was in quite a bad condition. "Her ears were bleeding and she

had a horrible tumour on her leg. The lady who passed away had been feeding her for some time and we found her in the garden there. A neighbour had been feeding her before we found her.

"We took her to Carmel Vets, who told us about the operations that are required. She is in some discomfort and keeps scratching her ears. Hopefully this operation should give her a better quality of life.

"She obviously used to have a home at some point as she is so lovely and friendly and loves fuss."

Betty will remain at Kats Cradle in Coven after the operation, unless she can be rehomed.

To make a donation send a cheque to Kats Cradle via 20 Parsons Croft, Coven WV9 5AR or e-mail donations to [emjo2014@outlook.com](mailto:emjo2014@outlook.com) or call Debbie on 07944 105 033.



Debbie Brookes-Hemans with Betty, a 10-year-old stray, and, inset, the tumour on the cat's leg

# New Uni advisor to help shape the future

A FORMER Government special advisor has joined the University of Wolverhampton in a new role focused on understanding the regional economy and influencing the policies that will help shape it.

Professor Andy Westwood has been appointed as director of the University Observatory and will join on November 1.

Mr Westwood, who grew up in Wolverhampton, is a Professor of Politics and Policy and currently splits his time between the Universities of Winchester and Manchester, where he is the Associate Vice President for Public Affairs.

He previously worked as special adviser to the Secretary of State at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and a senior adviser at the Treasury and the Department for Education. He was also a senior adviser to ministers at the Department for Communities and Local Government and a specialist adviser to the House of Lords Committee on Digital Skills.

He said: " I look forward to helping the university, city and region grow and develop further in the future."

# 3,000 more could be registered for alarms

WOLVERHAMPTON Council says it aims to sign up another 3,000 elderly residents to its 24-hour home alarm system over the next three years.

The Telecare service supports people to live independently in their own homes by giving them a range of assistive technology, from emergency alarms and fall detectors to smoke and flood sensors and automated pill dispensers.

The authority is planning on giving 3,000 additional customers the chance to use Telecare over the next three years and has launched four new packages for a range of budgets and requirements, priced from £3 to £9 per week or free for people in receipt of certain benefits.

## Response

Should a Telecare alarm be activated, a message is sent to the council's 24-hour control centre, where trained operators talk to the individual to establish the most appropriate response, which could be by contacting a family member, carer or doctor, the new mobile responder service provided by West Midlands Fire Service or the emergency services.

Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE, the City of Wolverhampton Council's cabinet member for adults, said: "Telecare is playing a vital role in helping people living more independently for longer and in providing peace of mind and reassur-

ance to Telecare customers, their carers and of course family members, some of whom may live many miles away.

"Telecare can also support people in the reablement process, helping to ensure a timely discharge from hospital and help prevent the need for more intensive support and even residential care further down the line.

"We want to substantially increase the number of people using Telecare in Wolverhampton over the next few years, and so have introduced a range of new packages which will meet a range of requirements and budgets," she added.

Telecare is provided free of charge to people in receipt of certain benefits and free during a period of 'reablement' support or to prevent a hospital admission.

To find out more about Telecare, please visit [win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/telecare](http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/telecare), call 01902 553585 or email [telecare@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:telecare@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

# Author books in to entertain students

A BEST-SELLING author helped young minds open a new chapter when he delivered words of wisdom and showcased his new book.

Children's author Jonathan Stroud selected Wolverhampton Grammar School as a venue to promote his new book The Creeping Shadow.

The 45-year-old, from Bedford, delivered an energetic, informative presentation to 350 students from WGS and eight visiting schools.

In addition to his interactive presentation which introduced students to the setting and characters within the Lockwood and Co. series, Mr Stroud also encouraged children to improve their own creative writing skills.

Students had the opportunity to interview Mr Stroud, who previously worked as an editor for Walker Books, in London. For several years he worked helping authors with their ideas and their texts

Zoe Rowley, senior librarian, organised the event with Authors Aloud.

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# Big Brother's Craig opens £1.5m college skills centre

THE first winner of TV's Big Brother has opened Stourbridge College's £1.5million construction centre.

Builder Craig Phillips, who won the first UK series of the TV show in 2000, visited Stourbridge College's new centre, which contains carpentry, electrical and plumbing workshops.

College bosses hope to support industry skills shortages by training students for jobs needed in the construction industry and allied trades.

Year 10 students from Pedmore Technology College and Redhill Foundation School received a construction mini master class from Phillips before competing against one another in three practical challenges.

The Liverpool-born former bricklayer has crafted a new career presenting DIY TV shows.

He said: "I'm hugely impressed with the college's facilities and how the students have made full use of the resources now available to them.

"I've experienced every side of the construction industry from worker to trainer to business owner, so I'm well aware of how important it is for young people to be supported in their careers.

"This centre will make a difference in the region and inspire generations to come."

The construction centre enables the college to welcome 350 additional students to their Hagley Road campus..

Gill Coldicott, head of Stourbridge College, said: "'We've recognised the growth in apprenticeships and continue to work with many employers looking to recruit staff and develop their existing workforces."



Craig Phillips with college students Owen Taylor, Gus Hurst and Nathan Debney at the new skills centre

# Man is charged after violent death

A MAN from Sheffield has been charged over the death of a 33-year-old Yorkshireman who was found with serious injuries on a Halesowen street.

Karl Swift, from South Yorkshire, died of his injuries after being found on New Road. He is believed to have been in the William Shenstone pub in the town earlier.

Dean Hartley, aged 29, of Burnaby Crescent, Sheffield, has been charged with manslaughter and appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court last week. He is due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court today (Thursday).

Dean Hartley senior, aged 51, of Chaucer Road, Sheffield, and Lee Ardron, 29, of Broad Inge Crescent, Sheffield, have been charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice and have been bailed to appear before Walsall Magistrates Court on November 18.

An investigation was launched after Mr Swift was found and then died in hospital the following day. Senior investigating officer Detective Inspector Paul Joyce said: "We are still keen to hear from anyone who was in the area on Thursday, September 8 into the early hours of Friday."

# MPs join fight over pharmacy funding cut

**BLACK Country Labour MPs are backing a campaign opposing a Government plan to cut the budget for chemists – potentially putting 653 West Midlands pharmacies at risk.**

Talks about a new package of funding for community pharmacies have fallen apart.

The Government is set to push through a funding cut that could force thousands of chemists to close across the country, according to Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin.

He said the Government's initial plan to cut £170 million from the community pharmacy budget – a six per cent reduction – has been put on hold after pressure from campaigners.

But a new round of damaging cuts could now be imposed.

Estimates showed that the £170m cut could have meant up to 3,000 community pharmacies – that's one in four nationwide – closing down.

Across Birmingham and the Black Country 653 community pharmacies serving 2.5 million people could be put at risk as a result of the funding cuts.

## Bad

Mr Austin said: "The Government should drop their damaging plan to cut community pharmacies and get back around the negotiating table.

"Cutting community pharmacies would be bad for our local community as many people, including young families and elderly people rely on them for free medical advice and prescription medicine.

"The Government's plan is also a false economy for the NHS, because community pharmacies save the NHS money.

"Cutting them will only add more costs in the long run," he added.

"The Government should

By David Cosgrove

think again urgently before it is too late."

Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds has lent her support to the campaign.

In Parliament she asked Health Minister David Mowat directly: "How many pharmacies will close as a result of these cuts?" The minister responded that it was very difficult to predict.

He said: "We do not believe that any community pharmacies will necessarily close as a result of these cuts.

"That will depend on a number of factors. It depends on the margin they make from their pharmacy activities and on the additional margin they make from their retail activities.

"Given that 65 per cent of all pharmacies are owned by public companies or private equity, it depends on the position those organisations take to their businesses.

"That is very hard to predict."

Ms Reynolds said afterwards: "I am very concerned that the Minister was unable to give a straight answer to a straight question."

The minister has said the Government had decided that the current system was not the best use of NHS resources.

"Far from jeopardising services, our modernisation package will help improve them," added Mr Mowat.

# Celebrating 25 years

A BUILDING society is celebrating 25 years at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Coventry Building Society is marking its anniversary this month having been set up at the Brierley Hill malls since 1991.

Steven Jenkins, manager at the Coventry's Merry Hill branch, said: "We're very excited about celebrating 25 years at Merry Hill. Over the years, we've provided much-needed banking services and developed really strong relationships with our members and the local community."

autumn

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## Life of local boy made good relived

Amblecote History Society

GEOFF Longmore opened the September meeting and introduced Barbara Middlemass who stepped in at short notice to present 'The Life of John Corbett'.

Barbara is the author of John Corbett - Pillar of Salt 1817-1901. She intends to do a revised version, adding new or revised information about Corbett's life. Next year marks the 200th year since his birth.

Born to Joseph and Hannah (nee Cole) in 1817 in Brierley Hill, Corbett was a local man made good.

While in Paris in 1855, Corbett met an Irishman, John O'Meara, who was married to a French woman and had two daughters. Anna Eliza was the youngest daughter and he married her within a year of meeting her and they had six children together. Corbett spent a fortune building an impressive house for Anna who missed Parisian life and this remains today as the Chateau Impney.

Corbett moved into politics as a Liberal candidate and was elected in 1874 as MP for Droitwich.

Corbett was a rich, respected philanthropist who generously gave money to local causes - Amblecote and surrounding villages benefited in 1892 from him buying The Hill estate which had stood empty and dilapidated for some years, along with its 30 acres of grounds for £6,500. And after adding a further £5,000 to restore and convert the buildings it became the Corbett Hospital.

## Denis handed reins as new president



Outgoing president Gary Wood hands over to new incumbent Denis Hickman

GARY Wood handed over the chain of office to the new president Denis Hickman at the club's recent AGM.

Mr Wood thanked the committee and members for their support and said how much he had enjoyed his term of office.

Mr Hickman said he was looking forward to supporting the aims of the club in the new club year. The club is open to all men in

Dudley Probuc Club

the Dudley area. It meets the Lodge in Wellington Road, Dudley on the last Tuesday in the month for a meal and talks by various speakers. See more on [www.dudley-probus.webs.com](http://www.dudley-probus.webs.com)

## Bike v bus in cross country race

THE guild met on October 10 at the community centre. Chairman, Enid Fennell welcomed two new members.

The guest was Alan Peace, a popular speaker and a man of many talents. His subject was 'Bike versus Bus', a race from John O'Groats to Lands End. Which was the fastest? That would be tell-

Kingswinford TG

ing. The trip did raise a considerable amount for Cancer Research. Chris Groves gave thanks.

The various sections announced their future plans. Scrabble will be at Kendall Rise for the foreseeable future. The rambles will

meet at Wolverley Lock. The next venue for the Luncheon Club will be The Glassworks.

Tickets were on sale for the community centre raffle.

Raffle prizes at this meeting were won by Wendy Eley and Pauline Bird. Joyce Robins was thanked for her delightful flower arrangement.

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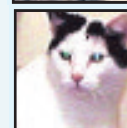
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TO celebrate the re-opening of the new-look Edinburgh Woollen Mill in Gardenlands Garden Centre, Shipley, we're giving away £500 worth of voucher cards between five lucky Chronicle readers.

Winners can each treat themselves to £100 in seasonal must-haves from the retailer's stylish new autumn/winter collections for him and her.

The new-look store will feature some of the retailer's most sought after men's and ladies wear from Country Rose, Isle, Honor Millburn, One Valley and P.G. Field, plus the

latest gifts and accessories.

Ladies, look out for the high-light transeasonal Seafarer line from popular label Country Rose. Inspired by on-trend nauticals and perfect for an off-duty look, this is the first of three exciting collections for autumn/winter.

And don't miss the new menswear offering from One Valley, with stylish casualwear in a warm palette of navy and berry tones.

As part of one of the UK's largest high street chains, the store is part of a portfolio of 380 Edinburgh Woollen Mill stores spanning the UK.

The new store can be found at Gardenlands Garden Centre, Bridgnorth Road, Shipley, Wolverhampton, WV6 7EJ.



Browse the exciting new collections



Stylish casualwear for men

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And to be in with a chance of winning a £100 voucher card to spend in the store, simply answer the following question:

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Terms and conditions: Voucher

cards may be exchanged for goods at any Edinburgh Woollen Mill store. Voucher cards can be exchanged for goods of a higher price than their face value on payment of the difference. They can also be exchanged for goods of a lesser price than face value, where change for every full pound will be supplied in voucher cards and pence will be supplied in coinage. Voucher cards cannot be exchanged for cash. Five winners will be able to collect £100 worth of vouchers cards from The Edinburgh Woollen Mill in Shipley by presenting one piece of ID.

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# Protest over axed bus route to Merry Hill



Bryan Cotterill with residents Cissie Cox, Paul Kirton, Joyce Evans, Ruby Tristram, Lilly Owen and Mary Homer

RESIDENTS are angry that a bus service is to be scrapped over claims that not enough people are using it.

The 282 Diamond bus service runs from Merry Hill shopping centre to Gornal Wood via Dudley Wood.

Bosses from Transport for West Midlands argue the service can no longer be run due to commercial reasons.

They say they have been subsidising it for years and now the number of people using it has dropped below the minimum required. But the move has sparked an outcry from those who use the bus.

Councillor Bryan Cotterill, who represents the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood ward, says the loss of the service will leave residents feeling isolated.

Angry residents seeking to save the route gathered outside the children's centre in Woodland Avenue, Quarry Bank to protest at its removal.

Councillor Cotterill said: "It's elderly people that are primarily affected. There is one lady who is gone 90 and her husband is in care.

"She relies on this bus to see him every day.

"To be told that instead you've got to get a taxi, that's very expensive

when you are just on a pension. It is leaving people isolated."

A Transport for West Midlands spokesman said: "Using public money to provide bus services that private companies cannot run for commercial reasons is important in making sure that people can properly access employment, education and leisure opportunities. However, in order to protect the public purse we have strict criteria that need to be met in order to justify using taxpayers' money.

"For those passengers who have limited mobility the Ring and Ride service may be a suitable alternative."

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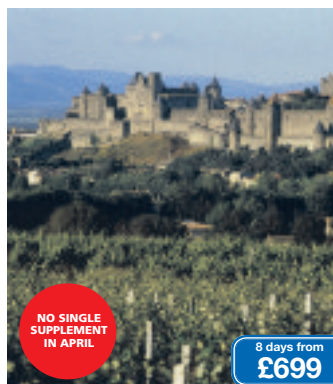
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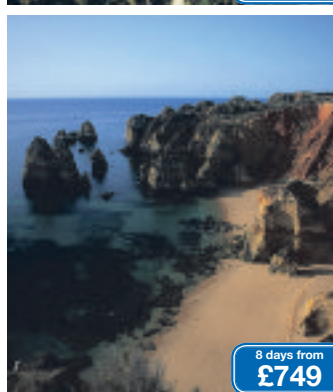
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# Murder suspect's cell death ruled as suicide

**AN inquest jury has concluded the death of suspected double murderer Leo Barnes was suicide.**

Barnes, aged 33, from Birmingham, was found hanging in his cell at HMP Hewell in Redditch in January 2015. At the time, he was on trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Barnes was accused of battering 80-year-old grandmother Cynthia Beamond to death with a saucepan at her Halesowen home, and then killing 67-year-old Philip Silverstone with a car jack at his flat in Belsize Park, London. He had denied both murders.

Following the five-day inquest at Worcestershire Coroner's Court in Stourport, the jury returned a conclusion that his death was suicide.

## Appear

Barnes was found hanging in his cell at about 6.05am on Sunday, January 25. On the Friday before, he had been due to be cross-examined by prosecutors, but didn't appear in court after complaining of feeling ill.

During the inquest before Coroner Geraint Williams, a member of Barnes' defence counsel, Joseph Kotrie-Monson, said he had told him he wanted to take his own life.

However senior custody officer at the crown court, Marie Dance of prison transportation and custody company GeoAmey, said Barnes was asked 'on every day' about his mental state. She said: "I spoke to Mr Barnes and he stated to myself that he had no thoughts or issues at present."

Forensic psychiatrist Dr Dinesh Maganty said: "With others who are depressed it is much more straight forward. We can see there is certain behaviour, they can't hide the symptoms, they can't hide the difficulties. That would not be the case with Mr Barnes. He could hide his symptoms."



Suspect Leo Barnes, aged 33



Murder victim Cynthia Beamond

## Van driver collides with tree

A MAN was taken to hospital when a van overturned after colliding with a tree. The van was left on its side following the crash on Brettell Lane in Amblecote on Sunday at around 1.30pm.

The driver was helped out of the vehicle by people at the scene before emergency services arrived. He suffered cuts and bruises and was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Firefighters made sure the vehicle was safe and tipped it back into its

wheels. Glass and other debris was left scattered over the road following the crash.

Watch Commander Paul Martin, from Brierley Hill Fire Station, said: "The van hit a tree. The driver was helped out of the vehicle by locals before we got there."

It was the latest serious crash to happen on Brettell Lane. Motorcyclist Elliott Beddow, aged 20, was killed after coming off his Harley Davidson last month.

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# Driver admits causing death of passenger

**A DRIVER has admitted causing the death of his passenger after the car they were in smashed through a garden wall in Dudley.**

Timothy Pearson, aged 23, was killed when a Nissan Skyline driven by Jamie Wharton left the road and careered into a garden in St Peter's Road, Netherton.

Wharton pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court to causing death by careless or inconsiderate driving. The 31-year-old, of Birch Coppice, Quarry Bank, had been due to stand trial on a charge of causing death by dangerous driving but the Crown Prosecution Service agreed to accept a guilty plea to the lesser charge.

Wharton was warned by Judge John Wait that he could expect to receive a custodial sentence.

The court heard the pair were in the car together on the evening of June 3, 2014, when it left the road in wet conditions.

### Family

The Nissan skidded sideways off the road in a 'crab-like' movement. Mr Pearson, from Quarry Bank, was pronounced dead at the scene. Wharton was injured but has made a full recovery.

Dressed in a dark suit and white shirt, Wharton showed no emotion during the hearing and spoke only to confirm his guilty plea as family and friends of Mr Pearson looked on from a packed public gallery.

Prosecuting, Miss Sally Hancox said the wet surface and the fact that the car had moved sideways made it difficult to determine how fast it had been going. But she said it was the prosecution's case that Wharton's driving fell 'not far short of dangerous driving'.

Judge John Wait said: "Loss of life is not something which just happened in June 2014 but continues to affect many lives now. That person who lost their life more than two years ago is irreplaceable to those who lost him."

## Kristian leaps in at Aldi



Gymnast Kristian Thomas opens the new Aldi on the site of the former Old King Arthur pub in Dudley

GYMNASTICS star Kristian Thomas unveiled a new supermarket in Dudley - as shoppers queued around the corner to get in.

Kristian, who hails from Wednesfield, cut the tape to mark the opening of the new Aldi on the site of the old King Arthur pub on Birmingham New Road.

Dozens of shoppers waited outside for the doors to open at 8am, eager to get their hands on gifts which were being given out to mark the occasion. The first 100 people in the queue were handed golden envelopes, giving them the chance

to win top-of-the-range TVs, radios and smartphones.

Olympic medallist Kristian, who trains in Halesowen, was joined by children from Priory Primary School to open the store and posed for pictures with shoppers.

He also show off his gymnastics skills, with a shopping counter taking the place of the pommel horse.

The supermarket has opened less than a year after the King Arthur was bulldozed and has created 35 jobs. Store manager Justin Leich said: "There was a great buzz at the store."

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**CHRONICLE**

**Christmas Card Challenge**

The Advertising Department set school kids from **Thorns Primary School** the Christmas Card Challenge and on pages 20 and 21 we have printed their superb designs. Now all we want you to do, is choose your favourite and send your nomination to us. The designer with the most votes will be presented with their Christmas Card, framed and will receive a set of cards to send out to their family and friends.

**As part of the prize, we will donate £50 towards the School Funds**

Please send your completed nomination form to:  
**Stourbridge Chronicle, Christmas Card Challenge**  
**Stourbridge Advertising Department**  
**3, Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB**

**Thank you for voting!**

Closing date for nominations is Friday 4th November. Nominations from under 16s will require a parents'/guardians' signature. Photocopies of this nomination form will not be accepted. Only one nomination per household. Competition entrants may not vote for their own entry. The winner will be the child with the most entries. In the event of a tie an independent representative will decide.

**Christmas Card Challenge Nomination Form**

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I have read the rules and agree to abide by them

Signature .....

Parent/guardian (if applicable)

★ Turn to pages 20 and 21 to view entries



## Hospital staff in lather for charity

HOSPITAL staff are aiming to raise bucket loads of cash for Children in Need by staging a charity car wash.

Workers from different departments at West Midlands Hospital, in Halesowen, are teaming up to support the annual appeal on Friday, November 18. Patients and staff can have their car washed for a minimum £3 donation on the day between 10am and 2pm.

Employees will staff the car wash on an hourly rota basis and staff will also be making donations to wear fancy dress for a day or a Pudsey bear item.

Tania Peters, quality improvement manager, said: "We are looking forward to supporting this national appeal."

"We organise a number of fundraising initiatives throughout the year which involve staff from all departments and this is the latest activity. It promises to be a great day and staff in fancy dress will add to the occasion."

## MP's driving force for digital garage



Business Connector Andy Mullaney, Ian Austin MP and Ade Bangbala at the digital garage workshop

A DIGITAL masterclass was given by Google staff to Black Country businesses and young entrepreneurs.

Experts from Google brought their Digital Garage to Dudley College, after being invited by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

The internet giant's Digital Garage project is a commitment to provide digital skills training to 200,000 small businesses across the UK by the end of 2016.

After meeting with members of Google's team in London, Mr Austin arranged for them to share their knowledge at the event hosted by Dudley College.

Google's lead digital trainer Ade Bangbala was on hand to share advice on how firms can use the Internet to their benefit.

Following the event, Mr Austin said: "With the way things are going if we want to attract more investors and companies to the Black Country then these are the skills that are growing and that the hi-tech industries need."

Alongside representatives from local firms, the Google workshop was attended by some of the college's business students.

Mr Austin added: "It was great to see them there too, and we are hoping to arrange for some of the young people to come down to Google's campus in East London."

Debbie Goode, Dudley College's assistant principal marketing & business development, added: "We were delighted to host this event."

## Better results, but school will still shut

A SCHOOL due to close next year recorded the second most improved exam results in the Dudley borough - despite council bosses saying they had 'no alternative' but to shut it.

GSCE results at Coseley School show a 16 per cent increase on 2015, with 47 per cent of pupils gaining five A\* to C grades, including maths and English.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Although the five A\*.C figure is improved and welcomed, the measure of progress using the new national measures for Coseley is well below the national expectation."

But Councillor Star Anderton, who is against the closure, said argued Dudley Council 'did not give the school a chance to improve'.

Phil Nicholls, assistant head at the school, said he was 'exceptionally proud' of the pupils.

# Woman in scissors attack on partner spared immediate jail

Report by Nathan Briant

**A WOMAN who attacked her boyfriend with scissors during an alcohol-fuelled row has been given a suspended sentence.**

Gemma Maiden, of High Street, Quarry Bank, had been on a night out with her long-term partner Ben Chapman on August 2 when an argument broke out.

Mr Chapman punched Maiden first - but she attacked him with the scissors as he went to leave their home, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. He was left with scratches down his back, prosecutor Helen Chamberlin said. Maiden, aged 25, said she had no recollection of hurting him in that way.

They had been out celebrating after Mr Chapman was given an award for entertaining at a Mecca Bingo hall. But an argument flared in their bedroom.

Maiden said it was over a phone but Mr Chapman told police it was over a comment she had made about his award.

The court was told the couple has 'now very much reconciled' and, in an unusual move, Judge James Burbidge QC invited Mr Chapman to give his view before he sentenced Maiden. Mr Chapman said what Maiden did was out of character and that she was getting help to deal with mental health issues.

He said: "That is not her. I wouldn't have been with her for six years if it was."

The court was told she has seven convictions for 16 offences, which include dishonesty, criminal damage and traffic offences. He also told the court that he had sought to retract his complaint over Maiden's behaviour a week later.

Sentencing Maiden, Judge Burbidge said, of Mr Chapman: "He would be the most at risk if you were to resort to violence and so his words to court are important words and therefore I can suspend the time of imprisonment."

Maiden was given a jail term of four months, suspended for 18 months. She will also need to undertake a 30-day rehabilitation activity requirement over 12 months.

## See light and vote for town

RESIDENTS across the borough have been urged to vote for Dudley town centre in an international lighting award.

In the last two years, the town's market place has undergone a multi-million pound revamp including a new feature lighting system.

This has now been shortlisted in a global competition for a City People Light award.

Dudley is up against 14 other projects from around the world including schemes in Canada, Mexico, Columbia, Sweden and Denmark.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, for planning and economic development, said: "Being nominated alongside projects from around the world is testament to the fantastic system we have in place."

Vote at [http://www.lighting.phillips.com/content/B2B\\_LI/en\\_AA/campaign/city-people-light.html](http://www.lighting.phillips.com/content/B2B_LI/en_AA/campaign/city-people-light.html) before October 31.

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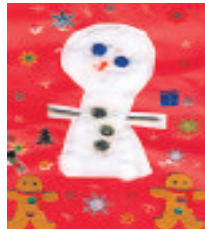
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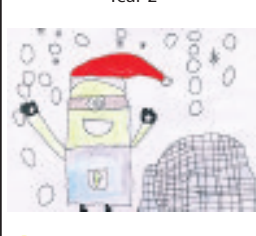
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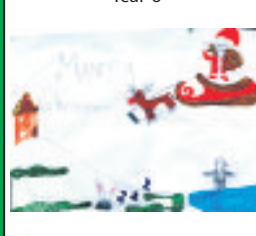
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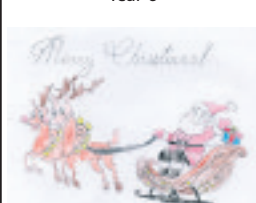
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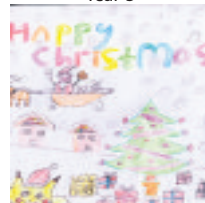
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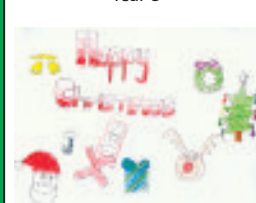
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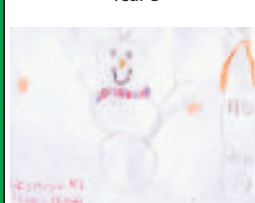
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# Tom, Wave hello to solo stardom

## ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

**TOM** Chaplin is feeling epic on his debut solo album *The Wave*.

Constantly returning to an aquatic theme, these songs will please fans of his band Keane with crowd-pleasing choruses and anthemic grandeur. But he is also good on the piano-led ballads.

Key tracks include *The River*, *Still Waiting*, *Quicksand* and *Hardened Heart*, the latter about defeating his personal demons. There is a melancholic feel to the album but the songs are also uplifting, and his vocals soar.

His *Brum Glee Club* gig on Sunday is sold out. His next could be at an arena if this catches the ears of U2 and Brandon Flowers' fans.

**Seasick Steve** is in fine form on his eighth album, *Keepin' The Horse Between Me And The Ground*. The double CD features 20 songs ranging from raw blues stomps to wistful hobo laments with a little country and rock too.

Highlights include *Hell*, which recycles the *Spirit In The Sky* riff as Steve decides where to send all the politicians and bankers; the poignant *Shipwreck Love*; plus some heartfelt covers of *Gentle On My Mind*, *Everybody's Takin'*, *Love's Signed DC* and *Hank Williams' I'm So Lonesome*.

The end of a relationship has inspired many albums so its refreshing that **Jack Savoretti** on his latest, *Sleep No More*, sings about staying together through the difficult times that all couples at some time face. The singer-songwriter's velvet on sandpaper voice is appealing, as are these restless songs that he describes as 'a love letter to my wife'.

He recorded each song in a day in



New wave – Tom Chaplin on the road

a bid to capture the emotion and it has worked, an essential rawness not overpowered by lush touches like the strings on *We Are Bound*. Other highlights include the gently rocking *When We Were Lovers*, the heartfelt *I'm Yours*, the soaring *Troubled Souls* and the title song with its Ennio Morricone movie theme feel.

Savoretti made his name with his last album *Written in Scars* but has surpassed it with *Sleep No More*. He is in concert at Birmingham O2 Institute on Thursday, November 3.

**Rebecca Ferguson** is one of the best singers discovered by The X Factor but I feared for her career when her last album took the redundant step of covering the Billie Holiday songbook, due to the similarity in their smoky vocals. New album *Superwoman* reinvents the Liverpoolian songstress as a soul singer, albeit one with her own

distinctive phrasing and vulnerable emotive style.

Bones, the opening song and single, swells nicely and there are retro nods (a hint of Motown on *Don't Want You Back* and *Stax* on the title song). Even so-so power ballads are elevated into something special when showcasing Ferguson's tender-tough vocal. Rebecca Ferguson is in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, November 2.

Broadway star **Idina Menzel**, best known for belting out *Defying Gravity* and *Frozen's Let It Go*, turns to power ballads – the closest pop genre to showtunes – for her fifth solo album, *Idina*.

None of the 12 original songs are likely to set the charts aflame but on *Queen Of Swords* she shows that she is a match for such divas as Celine Dion. Her voice is at its most interesting on a (relatively) restrained song like *I See You*, though even then a show-stopping finale can't be resisted.

New York synth duo **Phantogram** are on the cusp of the big time with album *Three* and key track *You Don't Get Me High Anymore*, sounding like Lana Del Rey given a dubstep revamp. With a sound that ranges from Mercury Rev-like indie quirk to twitchy Skrillexish arrangements, Sarah Barthel and Josh Carter are an intriguing musical partnership who could appeal to fans of Sia and Halsey thanks to the blend of electronica with Barthel's alto vocal.

Australian outfit **Jagwar Ma** conjure up a glorious blend of psychedelic pop and dance music that harks back to the heyday of The Stone Roses and Primal Scream on their second album, *Every Now & Then*, whilst fellow Aussies Tame Impala are also brought to mind.

Highlights include the jangling guitars and propulsive synths of *Say What You Feel*, which morphs into a cousin of Chris Brown's *Beautiful People*, and the Fatboy Slim-like *Give Me A Reason*.

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# fast theticket

## Teleman

Young indie stars  
on way – Page 25

## Jack the lad

Savoretti in town –  
Page 25



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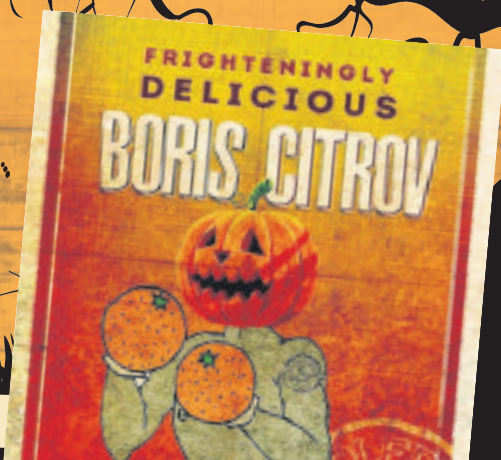
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## Tom Chaplin



**Sunday, 7.30pm**  
**The Glee Club, Birmingham**  
This intimate gig by the former Keane frontman is a certain full house and no wonder, with the buzz surrounding his solo debut album *The Wave* and single *Quicksand*.  
See [www.tomchaplinmusic.com](http://www.tomchaplinmusic.com)

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## Rebecca Ferguson



**Wednesday, 7.30pm**  
**Symphony Hall, Birmingham**  
The smoky-voiced Scouser is one of the finest talents to emerge via *The X Factor* and has left the Billie Holiday songbook dead end behind with her highly rated new album *Superwoman*.  
See [thsh.co.uk](http://thsh.co.uk)

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Spotted Dog, Birmingham,  
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Call 0121 772 3822

## COMEDY

**Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational**  
Tomorrow,  
Victoria Hall, Hanley,  
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**Nina Conti: In Your Face**  
Sun, £18.50  
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**The Boy with Tape On His Face**  
Tue,  
Wulfrun Hall,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1RQ.  
Call 01902 552122

**Rob Beckett – Mouth of the South...**  
Wed,  
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1RQ.  
Call 01902 552122

**Lucy Porter: 'Consequences' Tour**  
Wed, £15  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,  
SY3 8FT.  
Call 01743 281281

**Julian Clary**  
William Aston Hall, Glyndr University, Wrexham, LL11 2AF.  
Call 01978 290666

## THEATRE

**MAC Explorers: Dance**  
Tonight,  
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Mavis Sparkle**  
Tonight - tomorrow, £9  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.  
Call 0121 236 4455

**Barry Steele & Friends: The Orbison Story**  
Tonight,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**Odyssey**  
Tomorrow, £6 - £8  
The University of Birmingham,  
B15 2TT.  
Call 0121 414 4117

**Henry V**  
Tomorrow - Thu,  
The Crescent Theatre,  
Birmingham, B16 8AE.  
Call 0121 643 5858

**Maximum RnB with The Manfreds**  
Sun,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs 2: The Magic Cutlass**  
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Chas & Dave**  
Sun,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**The Mousetrap**  
Mon - Thu,  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Steve Backshall's Wild World**  
Mon,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP.  
Call 0844 871 7649

**Cats**  
Wed,  
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
Call 01543 412121

**Anastasia**  
Wed, £16 - £18  
Ludlow Assembly Rooms,  
SY8 1AZ.  
Call 01584 878141

**Peppa Pig's Surprise**  
Wed - Thu,  
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,  
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

**The Entertainer: Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company encore screening**  
Wed, £13 - £15  
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.  
Call 01527 577330

## MISC. EVENTS

**Sutton Record Fair**  
Tomorrow,  
The Carpenter's Arms Community Centre,  
Sutton Coldfield, B73 5UY.  
Call 01213 212285

**Family Music Maze Workshop**  
Sun,  
Girl Guide Headquarters,  
Trefoil House, Birmingham,  
B1 1QL.  
Call 0121 643 3686

**MakerClub**  
Tue,  
Innovation Birmingham Campus,  
Faraday Wharf, B7 4BB.  
Call 0121 260 6000

## ARTS & CULTURE

**Art Explorer Friday**  
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Call 0121 248 0708

**Art Bus**  
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Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.  
Call 0121 248 0708

**BRICK Live**  
Today,  
NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**Galleries Night**  
Today,  
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS.  
Call 0121 414 7333

**Draw Something KS3**  
Today,  
MAC, Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**Classic FM Hall of Fame**  
Today,  
CBSO Centre, Birmingham,  
B1 2LF.  
Call 0121 616 6500

**October Open Afternoon at the Museum Collection Centre**  
Today,  
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, B3 3DH. Call 0121 303 1966

**Daniel Lebhardt**  
Today,  
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS.  
Call 0121 414 7333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Time to switch on the Telemen



Telemen get to the point – the London band bring their Brilliant Sanity album to the Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton

LONDON indie rock band Telemen, recently seen on Later With Jools Holland, are in concert at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Wednesday (November 2).

The quartet's second album, Brilliant Sanity, was well received earlier this year. It saw the group, which includes former members of noughties outfit Pete And The Pirates, hone their angular blend of catchy pop tunes with moody undercurrents.

Comparisons could include Franz Ferdinand and Arcade Fire.

It will be interesting to see frontman Tommy Sanders and co translate album highlights like Tangerine, Düsseldorf and Glory Hallelujah into rock anthems for the live environment.

Telemen release the single English Architecture in December. For tickets see [boxoffice@wolvescivic.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@wolvescivic.co.uk) or call 0870 320 7000.

Other key gigs include former

Keane singer Tom Chaplin's sold out Glee Club set on Sunday, the same night US band The Lumineers bring their Cleopatra World Tour to Birmingham O2 Academy.

Bear's Den have sold out the O2 Institute on Wednesday, the same night Gabrielle plays Birmingham Town Hall and Rebecca Ferguson is at Symphony Hall. Liverpool psych rock masters Echo & the Bunnymen play the Wulfrun Hall on November 3.



## Jack's love letter to wife

SINGER-SONGWRITER Jack Savoretti releases his new album, Sleep No More, tomorrow (Friday) and is in concert at Birmingham's O2 Institute next Thursday (November 3) as part of his UK tour.

Sleep No More is the follow-up to his hugely successful breakthrough album Written In Scars.

The new album's opener and first single is When We Were Lovers, it sets the tone for a set of 12 songs that Jack describes as a "love letter to my wife".

"The whole point of this album is that it's about the stuff that keeps you up at night," Jack explains.

Sleep No More is an album about the very real struggles of holding on to love against the odds.

"It's the first album I've written as an adult... as somebody trying to be an adult at least!" laughs the 33-year-old Londoner.

### Capture

Each song is a showcase for his soulful but rough at the edges vocals, from the honest warmth of I'm Yours, via the anthemic We Are Bound to the joy of Any Other Way.

Savoretti set himself a rule that each song would be written, recorded and completed from scratch in one single day.

"I wanted to capture how you sing a song for the first time," he recalls. "It's really hard to replicate, you can never beat that performance. It might not be pitch perfect but there will be something in it that connects."

"I'm not a perfectionist. On the contrary, I'm like 'No, that's great! Let's go with this!'"

### Rep stage is set for Rivers of Blood play

A LINK between a former Express & Star editor and Enoch Powell's Rivers of Blood speech is explored in a major new play which receives its world premiere at Birmingham Rep.

Clem Jones was editor of the newspaper in 1968 when the MP for Wolverhampton South West made his controversial speech that unleashed a political storm.

The story is told by Clem Jones' son, former BBC political correspondent Nicholas Jones, in his book Sultans of Spin which has informed the play, What Shadows by Chris Hannan. It is staged from October 27 to November 12 with acclaimed actor Ian McDiarmid as Powell.

### Discover famous Mousetrap twist

THE touring production of Agatha Christie's murder mystery with a twist, The Mousetrap, will begin the final leg of its UK tour at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday, October 31, to Saturday, November 5.

The Mousetrap opened at Nottingham Theatre Royal in 1952 starring Richard Attenborough and his wife Sheila Sim. It moved to London that year and is still running in the West End, the world's longest running stage production with more than 26,000 performances. The 60th Anniversary UK tour is a more modest record-breaker with over 1,100 performances.

### Comedians line up for lots of laughs

BRITAIN'S best known 'Pub Landlord', Al Murray will have a full house for his Let's Go Backward Together show at Birmingham Rep on Sunday. But there may be some tickets left to see his Wolverhampton Civic Hall show on November 5.

Comedy highlights at Birmingham Town Hall include sardonic host of Radio 4's The News Quiz, Miles Jupp, on Saturday and ventriloquist Nina Conti on Sunday.

At the Wulfrun Hall, Tape Face (formerly The Boy With Tape On His Face) brings his crazed antics on Tuesday and 'Mouth of the South' Rob Beckett is on Wednesday.

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**CHOICE**



Darcy Bussell

**Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.45pm)**

With Halloween just two days away, Strictly presents its annual fright-night spectacular, in which the 10 remaining dancing couples perform their spookiest routines, hoping to win the approval of the judges and the viewers at home. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present all the fun, while the fearsome foursome of Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell decide who was frightfully good and who was awfully bad. Plus, there will be another showstopping group routine from the professionals to kick-off proceedings.

**BBC1**

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Live International Rugby League. England v New Zealand (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

**6.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz.

**6.45 Strictly Come Dancing.** With Halloween just two days away, Strictly presents its annual fright-night spectacular, in which the 10 remaining dancing couples perform their spookiest routines, hoping to win the approval of the judges and the viewers at home. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present all the fun, while the fearsome foursome of Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell decide who was frightfully good and who was awfully bad. Plus, there will be another showstopping group routine from the professionals to kick-off proceedings.

**8.20 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gabby Roslin.

**9.10 Casualty.** Dylan is distraught when Dervla goes missing – although it soon turns out new F1 Sebastian knows something about the dog's disappearance.

**10.00 BBC News:** Weather. **10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches.

**11.45 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream.** Ramesh Ranganathan meets some of the members of his extended family beyond Britain's shores.

**12.15 Film:** Halloween: Resurrection. (2002) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

**BBC2**

**6.35 Film:** They Knew What They Wanted. (1940) **8.00 Film:** Mr and Mrs Smith. (1941) **9.30** Coast. (R) **10.00** Secret Britain. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Film: Vertigo. (1958) Hitchcock thriller, starring James Stewart. **4.05** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **4.35** Flot It! **5.30** Film: National Treasure. (2004) Action adventure, starring Nicolas Cage.

**7.30 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley.** (R)

**8.30 Dad's Army.** Classic comedy with the Home Guard during the Second World War, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier, Ian Lavender and Clive Dunn. (R)

**9.00 Artsnight: 2016 – The Year of King Lear.** A look at how Shakespeare's play resonates with contemporary audiences and why it is regarded as one of the playwright's greatest accomplishments. The programme examines five major productions being staged across the UK during 2016, and features contributions from actors Diana Rigg, Timothy West and Antony Sher, and director Nicholas Hytner.

**9.30 Imagine: The Seven Killings of Marlon James.** Alan Yentob meets the award-winning author, who became the first Jamaican writer to win the Man Booker prize in 2015 for his third novel A Brief History of Seven Killings, which spans several decades and explores the attempted assassination of Bob Marley in Jamaica in 1976 and its aftermath. Following the release of the book, James came out as gay in an article for the New York Times, and Alan accompanies him on a return trip to his home country, investigating how his novels provide an insight into the nation's history.

**10.30 Film: The Harder They Come.** (1973) Jimmy Cliff stars in this poignant Jamaican drama about a country boy who visits Kingston in search of stardom, only to get involved in drug dealing as his musical career takes off.

**12.10** Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R) **1.10** Film: Witchfinder General. (1968) **1.35** Film: (GMT) The Curse of Frankenstein. (1957) **2.55** This is BBC Two.

**ITV**

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.50** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **1.00** Cash Trapped. (R) **2.00** Puppy Secrets: The First Six Months. (R) **3.00** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **4.30** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather.

**6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Freddie Flintoff, Tim Vine and Angellica Bell answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

**7.00 Meet the Parents.** Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.

**8.00 The X Factor.** The battle for a music career continues as the budding pop stars take to the stage once more in the fourth live studio round – and by now, they should be getting quite comfortable with being in the X Factor spotlight. Expect the usual confrontations and bickering as judges and mentors Simon Cowell, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh fiercely defend their remaining contestants and critique the others – although whether any glasses of water will be thrown remains to be seen. Dermot O'Leary keeps the peace. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.

**9.50 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by Shawn Mendes, Nicole Scherzinger, Gino D'Acampo and Stephen Merchant.

**10.55** ITV News: Weather.

**11.15 Film: Carry On Cowboy.** (1966) Comedy Western, starring Jim Dale and Sid James.

**1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** (GMT) Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.30** ITV Nightscreen.

**CHANNEL 4**

**6.15** Gillette World Sport. **6.40** Manchester Half Marathon. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.15** The Simpsons. (R) **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.10** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **1.10** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot and Wetherby. **3.55** Formula 1 Mexican Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. Coverage of the third practice session ahead of the 19th round. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

**6.00 Formula 1: Mexican Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** Steve Jones presents coverage of the battle for pole position (Start-time 7.00pm), as the 19th round of the season continues at Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez in Mexico City.

**9.00 How to Build a Human.** Documentary exploring the latest developments in artificial intelligence. Gemma Chan, who plays android Mia in sci-fi drama Humans, meets experts in robotics and computer programming from around the world, and visits a project attempting to create a computer more powerful than the human brain. Gemma participates in an experiment to create a robotic version of herself, which is then tested for its ability to produce convincing human responses.

**10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz, with Sean Lock and Danny Dyer taking on Joe Wilkinson and Gabby Logan.

**11.00 Michael Moore in Trumpland.** Documentary filmed over two nights earlier this month in Cleveland, Ohio, capturing a live stage performance by the Oscar-winning film-maker in a Republican stronghold.

**12.05 Film: The American.** (2010) Thriller, starring George Clooney. **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Mac learns Neeta is pursuing legal action against him. (R) **3.00** (GMT) Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) **3.20** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Helping homeowners in West Sussex and Surrey. (R) **4.15** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.10** Deal or No Deal. (R)

**CHANNEL 5**

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Film: Mosquito Squadron. (1969) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Busted. (R) **3.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.15** Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

**6.15 NCIS.** Inquiries into the death of a marine land the team squarely in the middle of an inner-city gang war – and a message found at the scene of the crime seemingly implicates Gibbs. Forced to confront a secret from his past, he calls his mentor Mike Franks for help. Drama, guest starring Muse Watson and Kari Coleman, with Mark Harmon. (R)

**7.05 NCIS.** One of Tony's old murder investigations is reopened, and, in an attempt to find the perpetrator, he decides to switch roles with Gibbs, leading the team in an inquiry that links the case to an embezzlement scheme. American drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Sasha Alexander, Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette. (R)

**8.00 NCIS: New Orleans.** Brody thinks that a sailor hit by a party bus in the French Quarter is connected to her sister's death when similarities between the two emerge, and the team prepare for the St Patrick's Day festivities.

**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce the highlights from the weekend's games, including Derby County v Sheffield Wednesday at iPro Stadium, Fulham v Huddersfield Town at Craven Cottage, and Blackburn Rovers v Wolverhampton Wanderers at Ewood Park.

**10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Walsall v Coventry City, and Barnet v Hartlepool United.

**10.25 Film: Step Brothers.** (2008) Two 40-year-old men who have never left the family home are forced to share a room when their single parents marry each other. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly.

**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** (GMT) Now That's Funny! (R)

**DIGITAL**

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Sailors, Ships and Stevedores: The Story of British Docks **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey **9.00** The Code **11.00** The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **12.00** Kate Bush at the BBC **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1982 **1.15** (GMT) The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill **2.15** Close

**ITV2**  
**11.05** Catchphrase **11.45** You've Been Framed! **12.45** Film: Dragonheart (1996) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50** Film: Dragonheart (1996) **2.50** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.40** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Corpse Bride (2005) **6.20** Film: Twilight (2008) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** Film: Twilight (2008) **8.55** Scorpion **9.50** The Xtra Factor Live **10.20** Celebrity Juice: Halloween Special **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.00** Release the Hounds **1.50** Film: (GMT) Wild Child (2008) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05** Film: Wild Child (2008) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**  
**11.35** FYI Daily **11.40** Film: Carry On Henry (1971) **12.25** Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) **1.55** Rosemary & Thyme **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00** Golditz **1.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.55** (GMT) ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**  
**12.45** Darts: European Championship Live. Day two from Hasselt, Belgium. **5.00** Fishing Impossible **6.00** Test Match Cricket **7.00** Darts: European Championship Live. Day two from Hasselt, Belgium. **11.00** Test Match Cricket **12.00** Film: Halloween H20 (1998) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** Film: Halloween H20 (1998) **1.45** Hell on Wheels **1.50** (GMT) Car Crash Global

**E4**  
**11.00** Black-ish **11.30** The Goldbergs **2.30** Film: Stuart Little (2002) **4.05** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Chronicle (2012) **10.40** Gogglebox **11.50** Rude Tube **1.55** The Inbetweeners **Film4**  
**11.00** A Member in Paris (2011) **1.00** City of Ember (2008) **2.50** Casper (1995) **4.55** Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Solomon Kane (2010) **11.05** Excision (2012) **12.40** Eyes Without a Face (1960) **1.25** (GMT) Rec 3: Genesis (2012)

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CHOICE



Eleanor Tomlinson

**Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)**  
Demeiza refuses to speak to Ross, assuming that he will abandon her and return to Elizabeth. At Sir Hugh Bodregun's ball, she turns to Captain McNeil for support, and invites him to her room. George rides to Trenwith to talk Elizabeth out of cancelling their wedding, while Ross's fortunes seem to be changing for the better, with the offer of a prospering shipbuilding partnership from Tonkin, while Henshawe comes across the richest lode of tin he has ever seen when the mine clearance is completed.

BBC1

**6.00 (GMT) Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 A Tale of Five Temples: The Story of Hinduism in Britain. 1.45 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.55 Points of View. 3.10 The Great British Bake Off: The Final. (R) 4.10 The Great British Bake Off: Class of 2015. (R) 5.10 Songs of Praise. 5.50 BBC News.**  
**6.05 Regional Programme.**  
**6.15 Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from Herefordshire. Matt finds out about the county's pear cider industry, helping with a harvest and visiting some of the world's oldest pear trees in Hellen's Manor, while Anita meets a traditional clog maker and explores the history of a farm. Joe Crowley meets a student documenting birds, Tom Heap delves into the history of working at sea, and Adam Henson harvests bracken for fuel on the farm. Including weather for the week ahead.  
**7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges. Laura Mvula provides the music.  
**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents a special episode from on board the Flying Scotsman during its journey across Cumbria and Yorkshire, with passengers sharing stories from the history of travel.  
**9.00 Poldark.** Demeiza refuses to speak to Ross, assuming that he will abandon her and return to Elizabeth. At Sir Hugh Bodregun's ball, she turns to Captain McNeil for support.  
**10.00 BBC News.**  
**10.20 Regional Programme.**  
**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** The day's Premier League highlights, including Everton v West Ham United.  
**11.30 The Women's Football Show.** A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.  
**12.00 American Football. 1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.15 (GMT) The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.00 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) 7.45 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) 8.15 Greatest Gardens. (R) 8.45 Countryfile. (R) 9.45 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.45 Food & Drink. (R) 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 Great British Menu. (R) 2.00 Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World. (R) 3.00 Heir Hunters. (R) 3.45 Flog It! 4.40 Film: Frankenweenie. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Charlie Tahan. 6.00 Britain's Classroom Heroes. 7.00 Inside Obama's White House. Examining how Barack Obama set out to end George Bush's wars in the Middle East and reset relations with the rest of the world. In Syria, when evidence shows the use of chemical weapons, Obama decides to bomb. But when the British Parliament votes against the intervention, he decides he needs the backing of a reluctant Congress. Foreign Secretary William Hague explains why the British Parliament voted against intervention in 2013. This episode also explores how Obama scored a big win when he negotiated a secret deal to end the nuclear threat from Iran – behind the backs of his closest allies. (R) 8.00 Coast. The team explores dramatic shorelines, telling stories, investigating notable landmarks and exploring mysteries that have played an important role in the region's development.  
**9.00 Operation Goldrush with Dan Snow.**  
**10.00 Nigel Farage Gets His Life Back.** Satirical comedy, starring Kevin Bishop as the former UKIP leader, following him in the aftermath of the EU referendum as he adjusts to life away from the public eye.  
**10.35 Mock the Week. (R)**  
**11.10 QI XL.** Extended episode in which Sandi Toksvig invites Lucy Beaumont, Jason Manford, Rhod Gilbert and Alan Davies to answer questions on subjects associated with the North and the Norse. (R) 11.55 Film: Let Me In. (2010) A bullied boy befriends a mysterious girl, unaware she is a vampire who is behind a recent series of killings. Horror remake, starring Chloe Grace Moretz.  
**1.40 Countryfile. (R) 2.35 Holby City. (R)****

ITV

**6.00 (GMT) CITY: (GMT) Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooby. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Super 4. (R) 7.15 Oddbods. (R) 7.25 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.30 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Looped. 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Bear Grylls Survival School. 10.00 Peston on Sunday. 10.55 Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) 11.25 Chopping Block. (R) 12.30 ITV News; Weather. 12.40 The X Factor. (R) 2.30 Midsomer Murders. (R) 4.30 Spotless. (R) 5.30 Tipping Point. (R) 6.30 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.45 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Matt Allwright, Stacey Solomon, Louise Minchin and Keith Allen pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.  
**8.00 The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents last night's results, before the two lowest-scoring contestants compete in a sing-off.  
**9.00 Tutankhamun.** The Pharaoh's tomb is finally discovered in 1922, but the find is overshadowed by the struggle for Egyptian independence intensifies and tension between Carter and Carnarvon.  
**10.00 ITV News; Weather.**  
**10.15 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R) 11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the latest fixtures, including Northampton Saints v Gloucester, Saracens v Leicester Tigers, and Exeter Chiefs v Bath.  
**12.15 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas.  
**3.00 Motorsport UK.****

CHANNEL 4

**6.00 (GMT) Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R) 6.15 Motor Sport: Caterham Bop Box. (R) 6.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.25 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.40 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 6.50 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.00 Pets. (R) 7.05 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.15 Pip Ahoy! (R) 7.30 Little Princess. (R) 7.40 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.25 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.00 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.25 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.35 Football on 5: The Championship. (R) 11.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) 11.50 World Rally Championship: Live. 1.10 The Gadget Show. (R) 2.10 Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops. 2.40 Film: High Spirits. (1988) Supernatural comedy, starring Peter O'Toole. 4.30 Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge. (2000) Supernatural family drama, starring George Cole.  
**6.10 Film: One Chance.** (2013) Fact-based comedy drama following the rise to fame of opera singer Paul Potts. Throughout his school days as a bullied outsider and mundane adulthood as a mobile phone salesman, he longs to make something of his love of music, finally getting his opportunity when he takes part in TV contest Britain's Got Talent. Starring James Corden, Julie Walters, Colin Meaney and Mackenzie Crook.  
**8.00 Ice Road Truckers.** The consequences are huge when Darrell's truck breaks down. Plus, Mike Simmons' inexperience costs him on one of the country's toughest winter roads, while polar driver Todd Dewey has to retrace his tracks for hundreds of miles to recover part of his dropped load.  
**8.55 5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00 The Peter Kay Story.** Profile of the comedian.  
**10.30 Peter Kay Live at the Comedy Store.** A performance by the stand-up comedian.  
**11.05 Peter Kay: The Early Years.**  
**11.35 Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend.** (2006) An insecure superhero is outraged at being dumped by her boyfriend, and in revenge uses her powers to make his life a misery. Fantasy comedy, starring Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson.  
**1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Raw Recruits: Do or Die. (R) 4.00 Criminals Caught On Camera. (R) 4.50 House Doctor. (R)****

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 (GMT) Milkshake!: (GMT) Milkshake! Monkey. 6.05 Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) 6.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.25 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.40 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 6.50 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.00 Pets. (R) 7.05 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.15 Pip Ahoy! (R) 7.30 Little Princess. (R) 7.40 Paw Patrol. (R) 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.25 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.00 Shimmer and Shine. (R) 9.25 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.35 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.35 Football on 5: The Championship. (R) 11.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) 11.50 World Rally Championship: Live. 1.10 The Gadget Show. (R) 2.10 Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops. 2.40 Film: High Spirits. (1988) Supernatural comedy, starring Peter O'Toole. 4.30 Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge. (2000) Supernatural family drama, starring George Cole.  
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**1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Raw Recruits: Do or Die. (R) 4.00 Criminals Caught On Camera. (R) 4.50 House Doctor. (R)****

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00 (GMT) Canals – The Making of a Nation 7.30 Books that Made Britain 8.00 Frankenstein from The Royal Ballet 10.15 Annabel's Nightclub: A String of Naked Lightbulbs 11.15 BBC: The Secret Files 12.15 Fatal Experiments: The Downfall of a Supersurgeon 3.15 Books that Made Britain 3.45 Close**  
**ITV2**  
**1.15 Catchphrase 2.00 You've Been Framed! Gold Top 100 Shockers 3.00 Film: Corpse Bride (2005) 4.05 FYI Daily 4.10 Film: Corpse Bride (2005) 4.40 Film: The Smurfs: The Legend of Smurfy Hollow 5.05 Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) 6.05 FYI Daily 6.10 Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) 6.55 Film: Red Riding Hood (2011) 7.55 FYI Daily 8.00 Film: Red Riding Hood (2011) 9.00 The Xtra Factor Live. 10.00 Family Guy 12.00 American Dad!**  
**ITV3**  
**12.30 Lewis 2.30 Film: Columbo: The Most Crucial Case (1972) 4.10 Film: Carry On Matron (1972) 5.10 FYI Daily 5.15 Film: Carry On Matron (1972) 6.00 Rosemary & Thyme 7.00 Lewis 9.00 When Ant and Dec Met the Prince: 40 Years of the Prince's Trust 10.35 Charles: The Destiny of a Prince 11.40 FYI Daily 12.45 Film: The English Patient (1996) 2.35 Wycliffe**  
**ITV4**  
**11.15 Storage Wars: Texas 11.40 Monster Carp 12.45 Darts: European Championship Live. Day three from Hasselt, Belgium. 5.00 Pawn Stars 6.00 Test Match Cricket 7.00 Darts: European Championship Live. Day three from Hasselt, Belgium. 11.00 Test Match Cricket 12.00 Film: Total Recall (1990) 1.00 FYI Daily**  
**E4**  
**12.00 Made in Chelsea 1.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.00 Film: Dunston Checks In (1996) 3.45 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 6.30 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 6.40 Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) 9.00 Tattoo Fixers 10.00 Crazyhead 11.10 Film: GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) 1.30 The Inbetweeners**  
**Film4**  
**11.00 (GMT) Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) 1.00 Rat Race (2001) 3.15 Master of the World (1961) 5.15 Titanic (1997) 9.00 GI Joe: Retaliation (2013) 11.10 100 Bloody Acres (2012) 1.00 FilmFear: Night Cap 1.05 FilmFear: Squal 1.10 Kill List (2011) 3.20 Close**

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

**The Haunting of Radcliffe House, Channel 5, 11.05pm**  
Meg Hamilton moves with her husband Alec and their children Penny and Harper to Radcliffe House, a remote estate on the Yorkshire moors that she has been hired to renovate. Following a series of strange events, it appears that their arrival has triggered paranormal emanations related to the estate's tragic past. Supernatural drama written and directed by Nick Willing, with Olivia Williams and Matthew Modine. (2014)

TUESDAY

**Gifts for Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A couple about to spend their first Christmas together initially decide not to buy presents for each other. However, each is tempted to secretly seek out something they know the other wants. Drama, starring Marla Sokoloff and Mark Webber. (2010)



The Greatest, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

WEDNESDAY

**The Greatest, BBC1, 11.45pm**  
A grieving mother becomes obsessed with her dead son's last moments, while her unfaithful husband struggles to comfort her and their surviving son feels he can never live up to his brother's reputation. Drama, starring Pierce Brosnan, Susan Sarandon and Carey Mulligan. (2009)

THURSDAY

**Back to Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A woman travels back to the Christmas before her engagement broke down and tries to repair what went wrong. However, she soon realises it is a challenging undertaking. Romantic fantasy, starring Kelly Overton. (2014)

FRIDAY

**We Are the Best!, Channel 4, 1.35am**  
Two rebellious teenage girls growing up in 1980s Stockholm discover punk rock, and are inspired to start their own band, despite the mockery of their classmates. They find an unexpected kindred spirit in a born-again Christian girl, who has the musical talent they need. Drama based on Coo Moodysson's graphic novel, starring Mira Barkhammar. (2014)

A tale of adultery, fraud, bigamy and murder

According to the skipping rhyme she inspired, the Victorian serial killer Mary Ann Cotton is 'dead and forgotten', but it seems that's not quite the case.

Her story has intrigued writer Gwyneth Hughes, who explores the life of the poisoner in the new-two part drama Dark Angel.

And it also captured the attention of Downton Abbey star Joanne Froggatt, who plays Mary Ann. The actress says: "I was really excited about this role. Although Dark Angel is a period drama, Mary Ann could not be more different from (Downton's) Anna Bates."

In fact, Joanne was so intrigued, she even did some of her own additional research into Mary Ann to help understand what drove the real-life murder. She explains: "I read a book about her which is a factual account, as far as we know, of what happened. Then I did some research on female serial killers in general and the differences between male and female serial killers."

"Because to play somebody you have to make sense of what they're

doing in their head. Not only to make sense of it for you, but you have to make sense of their thought processes and their feelings. It's very challenging with such serious subject matter."

When we first meet Mary in this opening episode, she's in her mid-twenties, married to Billy Mowbray (Tom Varey), and has lost four children over the course of four years – only her fifth daughter, Margaret Jane, has survived.

The family, who have been living in Cornwall, decide to make a fresh start by returning to Mary's native Seaham, County Durham, where they receive a warm welcome from her mother Margaret (Penny Layden) and kindly stepfather George (Alun Armstrong).

In fact, George is so keen to protect his stepdaughter's interests, he persuades Billy to take out life insurance – and when Mary then meets flirtatious miner Joe (Jonas Armstrong) while buying arsenic to sort out a case of bed bugs, it looks like she will be collecting on the policy sooner rather than later...

It's the first in what becomes a string of crimes as Mary begins insinuating her way into other families.

Joanne believes Mary's losses, and the times she was living in, go somehow towards explaining – although not justifying – her actions.

"We first meet her at the age of 25 when she has suffered the natural loss of four of her children. I guess she almost goes mad with grief at some points..."

"She is a working-class woman in the Victorian era and there's no opportunity, no choice. There's no going out and having a career. Everything was simply marriage and babies. Washing, cleaning, cooking and rats. It was a horrendous life and she always felt that it was a life that wasn't right. She always wanted more than that."

Joanne adds: "She can't accept her lot but goes about seeking a better life in ways none of us would choose. I was fascinated by the psychology behind it." Which is one of the reasons why Dark Angel should make particularly chilling Halloween viewing.



Joanne Froggatt stars in Dark Angel, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

**Saving Africa's Elephants: Hugh and the Ivory War BBC1, 9pm**

Part two of two. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall asks if lessons can be learned from efforts to tackle the trade in rhino horn, asking if legalising the sale of it and ivory could be the solution. He travels to South Africa to meet John Hume, who argues vociferously that owners should be able to harvest and sell rhino horn to generate the necessary funds to protect them and tries to convince Hugh regulated legal trade in elephant ivory and rhino horn is the only thing that will save these species.

TUESDAY

**Pride of Britain Awards 2016 ITV, 8pm**

Carol Vorderman hosts the annual awards show from London's Grosvenor House, where Prince Charles joins some of the biggest names in TV, showbusiness, politics and sport, including Theresa May, Dame Maggie Smith, Eddie Redmayne, Simon Cowell, Ant and Dec and Peter Kay, paying tribute to this year's deserving winners. These include a nine-year-old girl who has battled through more than 500 operations for burns and is now raising £50,000 for charity.

**Ordinary Lies BBC1, 9pm**

Warehouse manager Toke, aka crime-fighting superhero the Rain Town Knight, tends to a homeless girl called Chrissy after she is attacked by a group of women. He takes her to hospital to get treated and reveals his protective side when he provides her with food, shelter and even a job. Unbeknown to his colleagues or girlfriend, Toke gets wrapped up in Chrissy's life – bit by bit and is soon tested on how far he is willing to go to help her.

WEDNESDAY

**Him ITV, 9pm**  
Therapist Ross Brodie finds his whole scientific belief system called into question after he witnesses the truth about his young patient's formidable powers. Meanwhile, Azfal remains unconscious in intensive care following the accident, and while Faith joins his family in praying for his recovery, his tormented teenage friend tries to find a way to use his unusual abilities to help him. However, the troubled young man soon comes to a

painful and irrevocable conclusion about how he can protect his loved ones. Supernatural thriller, starring Fionn Whitehead. Last in the series.

**THURSDAY Buble at the BBC BBC1, 8pm**



Buble at the BBC, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

The BBC has always had strong links with the music world, although (Glastonbury aside) most of its in-depth television coverage tends to be consigned to BBC4. Last year, BBC One broke the mould by staging Adele at the BBC, in which the singer performed some of her greatest hits, while Graham Norton presented and interviewed the star. Happily, almost a year later, Michael Buble now receives a similar treatment, with Claudia Winkleman as host. Buble will be backed by his touring band as well as a 30-strong orchestra, as he runs through some of his best-loved songs from a career which spans over 20 years.

**The Apprentice BBC1, 9pm**

The candidates continue to fight for Alan Sugar's financial backing, although this week they are tasked with securing investment for someone else. Each team must help an entrepreneur launch their new cycling product and get the public to invest through crowdfunding. It's down to half of each team to embrace the world of guerrilla marketing, creating a head-turning PR stunt, while the rest concentrate on a campaign video. However, as the funding websites go live, technical failures and spelling mistakes cause problems.

FRIDAY

**The Level ITV, 9pm**

Nancy's personal and professional lives collide when she sees a connection between her mother and the missing truck, as the full extent of Frank's monstrous crimes becomes clear, and she is forced to operate outside the law to prove her case against Nash. Hayley is let down by her ex-husband, leading Quinn to offer some much-needed comfort that provides food for thought, while Cherie doesn't seem to want to face the truth when Hayley asks her some probing questions. Karla Crome, Laura Haddock and Noel Clarke star. Last in the series.



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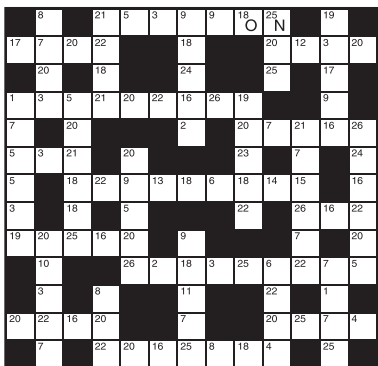
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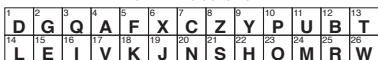
# BRAIN GYM No.401

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

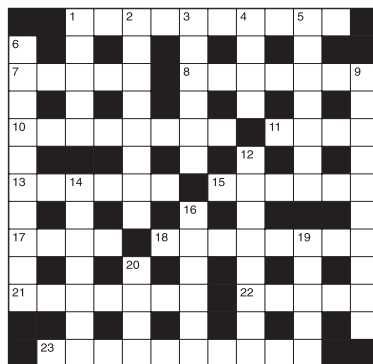
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Dockside worker who doesn't carry as much weight as others? (10)
- She writes a letter in French (5)
- It won't take you far towards becoming a dancer (3-4)
- Turn once set to music (8)
- Striking writing (4)
- About eleven, the ship moves off (6)
- Father takes nothing back for fabric (6)
- Female disease didn't start with mother (4)
- Its users have no need to take flight to reveal confusion (8)
- She plays a major part in a Shaw play (7)
- Bring up a matter of higher wages (5)
- Freedom from care for a body of men (10)

#### Down

- I ring up about the shrub (5)
- Seems a spirited sort of card game! (3,5)
- Troublesome roses are (6)
- Do a staggering dance? (4)
- A rising of workers (3,4)
- Its members presumably try to improve their services (6,4)
- Tidy instruction for the anagram solver (3,2,5)
- Talk with others having an opposite view? (8)
- Approve though possibly sore after the finish (7)
- Turn pale (6)
- Swindle in a tortuous way? (5)
- Flag with a tale of heroism (4)



### Quick Clues:

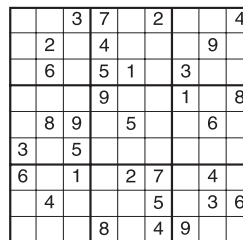
#### Across

- Corpse-like (10)
- Respond (5)
- Compelled (7)
- Female (8)
- Minus (4)
- Disprove (6)
- Type of shed (4-2)
- Comfort (4)
- Perverse (8)
- Sewing aid (7)
- Gutter (5)
- Contrition (10)

#### Down

- Amulet (5)
- Explode (8)
- Empty (6)
- Stagger (4)
- Sullied (7)
- Promotion (10)
- Jarring (10)
- Under obligation (8)
- Readily split (7)
- Confer office on (6)
- Cognisant (5)
- Musical instrument (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	3	8	2	9	1	6	7	5
7	2	9	5	4	6	3	1	8
5	1	6	8	3	7	2	9	4
8	7	2	1	5	4	9	3	6
9	5	3	7	6	2	8	4	1
1	6	4	3	8	9	7	5	2
3	9	5	4	2	8	1	6	7
2	4	1	6	7	3	5	8	9
6	8	7	9	1	5	4	2	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Capital; 7 Mason; 9 Age; 10 Remark; 12 Underhanded; 15 Extemporise; 17 Suffering; 19 Dot; 21 Get on; 22 Reverse. Down: 1 Mango; 2 Bit; 3 Race; 4 Back entry; 5 Counter; 8 Washer; 11 Underfoot; 13 Expert; 14 Excuses; 16 Hoist; 18 Need; 20 Men. QUICK - Across: 6 Durable; 7 Flood; 9 Few; 10 Take cover; 12 Impecunious; 15 Portmanteau; 17 Flattened; 19 Hid; 21 Stoop; 22 Account. Down: 1 Quiet; 2 Way; 3 Plea; 4 Illogical; 5 Doleful; 8 Result; 11 Imitation; 13 Evaded; 14 Pollute; 16 Fiend; 18 Each; 20 Boy.

## Quiz

- What is Riccardo Muti's occupation?
- What is the chief residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury?
- Whom was the Big Issue magazine set up to help?
- Of what nationality was author Laurens van der Post?
- To which species of bird does the mynah belong?
- Which composer wrote the music for Gypsy and Funny Girl?
- In which Cornish resort is the Barbara Hepworth museum?
- Which playwright wrote The Browning Version in 1948?
- What are auctioned at Tattersall's in London?
- Who composed the incidental music for Peer Gynt?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 I Ching; 2 Cocoa/cacao; 3 Belgium;

4 Hugh Gaitskill; 5 Four; 6 Chicago; 7 Ice;

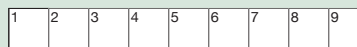
8 The river Tay; 9 Williams; 10 A duck.

Niner: SLAUGHTER

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

13457 gives a country singer,  
649572 gives an American film artist,  
682675 gives a British poet.



## Homeclad

- FASCIAS
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Country pub – the Shoal Hill Tavern in Cannock



Pigging out – the pork stack

# With full bellies and a happy wallet, what's not to like here?

**THE Shoal Hill Tavern is somewhat of a landmark to those living around the Cannock area.**

So, after having driven past what must have been more than 100 times, we decided to give it a shot.

And we weren't disappointed. We visited the eatery early evening on a Bank Holiday Monday and, as the sun shone across the pub's green garden, families and friends sat drinking on the benches.

Though it is always a pleasure to see a pub full we did fear the number of people outside may mean the place was heaving inside too. Luckily for us, it wasn't too busy at all and we were quickly seated.

One thing to mention is the superb booking system. No-one likes having to call and book tables when you're off out or in a hurry – and Shoal Hill Tavern has the per-

**Lisa Williams tucks in**

fect solution: online booking. It's all really easy and can be done in a matter of seconds by mobile phone, via an operator called Open Table Inc. Anyway, back to the pub.

As we walked into the venue, we were greeted by a bright, lively atmosphere with rustic wooden furniture and floors. The Shoal Hill Tavern at Cannock has a few great offers during the week. The one we had come for was their weekly two mains for £20, which takes place every Monday. We had arrived at 5pm, and ordered the food, before I double checked we were entitled to the offer – only to be told it didn't start until 6pm as it was a Bank Holiday.

A little communication here from the staff would have avoided the confusion.

Similarly, I only discovered the pub had a specials board after we had ordered our food

and eaten our starters. . . The staff could make diners aware of any extra food that is available. Complaints now aside, I can discuss my favourite topic – the food. And we were impressed.

My other half and I selected the Charcuterie sharer; a wooden platter boasting rows of delicious cured, cooked meats, criss-crossed tiny gherkins and a small, glass pot of garlic infused olives.

**Huge**

A wonderful, plentiful selection of flavours and textures – and at just £9.95 a reasonably-priced starter for two. Now, on to the mains. My partner opted for the home roasted ham with egg and chips from the lunchtime menu. Other than the lack of greens, his plate was stuffed with food – a huge amount given that it cost just £6.55.

For my meal I selected an item from the

evening menu: The Pork Belly Stack. Now I'm a huge fan of pork belly and this really wasn't the best I've ever tried. It was a little dry and there didn't appear to be a great deal of it. This should have put me off my dinner, but the remainder of the dish meant it was entirely irresistible.

Beneath the pork was a creamy sweet potato and normal potato mash, which covered another layer of pork; which, this time, was juicy and tasty. Under that was a layer of deep green, curly kale – and the whole meal swam in a mouth-wateringly thick, creamy sauce.

I couldn't resist a dessert and opted for the raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake. Though the base of the cheesecake was not as crunchy as I would have liked the cheesy bit was creamy and smooth.

Seeing as the bill was just £44.50 – we left with our bellies full and our wallets happy.

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<p><b>Ironbridge Victorian Christmas &amp; Christmas Lunch</b> Sun 11 Dec <b>£34.95</b></p>	<p><b>Ludlow Castle Medieval Christmas Fayre &amp; Christmas Lunch</b> Sun 27 Nov <b>£31.95</b></p>
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City Centre freehold currently let on Assured Shorthold Tenancy at £475 pcm - a one-bedroom 3-storey end terrace house in the heart of historic Worcester offering a wealth of shopping, leisure and employment opportunities! There is also a shared rear garden. Ideal investment property and a rare opportunity in this price bracket. EPC E

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**Stourbridge Road,  
Kidderminster DY10 2QE**



To be sold for the first time in almost 70 years! - a 3-bedroom 1930's detached house requiring repair and refurbishment but having immense further potential, together with good sized south-east facing rear gardens. Reception hall, bay fronted living room, kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC F

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**Charlton Lane,  
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Un-polished gem\* for sale under the hammer to close an Estate! - a captivating non-listed stone faced detached country residence of real distinction with BIG potential set some 100ft back from the lane-side and sitting on ABOUT 3.4 ACRES of good level grounds with two entrances comprising gardens, a large 2 acre paddock to the west, and an assortment of agricultural barns to the east. Here is the perfect chance for your very own "grand design" in a prime rural setting surrounded by open Greenbelt countryside and yet with swift access to Worcester and the M5. EPC E

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**Guide Price  
£400,000 - £500,000**

**Bewdley Road,  
Stourport DY13 8YD**



For sale to close an Estate and available for the first time in 37 years! - a 3 bedroom semi detached house on a large plot with very broad south west facing rear gardens and good potential for extension subject to requisite Consents. Reception hall with built-in pantry, bathroom, through living room, dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms, garage, vacant possession upon completion. EPC E

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**Guide Price  
£125,000 - £135,000**

**Childe Road,  
Clebury Mortimer DY14 8PB**



End terrace three bedroomed family home situated in a semi rural location close to the town centre and local amenities. Reception hall. Lounge. Kitchen. Utility. Three bedrooms. Bathroom. Separate toilet. Electric heating. Fore and rear gardens. No parking. CASH BUYERS ONLY

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**Lea Street,  
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A Victorian mid terrace house requiring refurbishment - formerly also an old shop albeit trading ceased some 30 years ago! Former retail area, cellar, living room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 2 bedrooms plus attic room, good sized level rear garden being fully private in that, there is no right of way across for neighbouring properties. EPC G

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**Guide Price  
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**Lea Street,  
Kidderminster DY10 1SW**



Ideal 'turn key' investment, now with vacant possession but previously long term let - a spacious and very well maintained Victorian mid terrace house arranged over three floors in an ultra-convenient location only half a mile from town centre itself and just seconds from the train station plus plentiful amenities along neighbouring Comberton Hill. EPC D

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**Guide Price  
£90,000 - £110,000**

**St. Johns Street,  
Bridgnorth WV15 6AG**

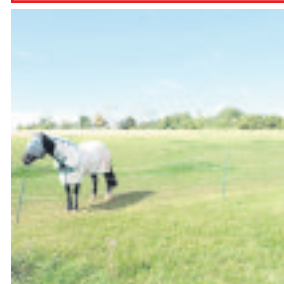


A Grade II Listed ground floor commercial retail unit with refurbished 2 bedroom flat over the first and second floors together with rear garden.

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**Guide Price  
£140,000 - £150,000**

**Land at Charlton Lane,  
Hartlebury Y11 7SD**



A valuable parcel of good open agricultural land, fronting Charlton Lane - also having a gate to it - extending to about 11.5 acres and comprising three fields of grassland used for growing hay and the grazing of private horses. Rare opportunity.

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**Guide Price  
£75,000**



# Sit back and relax with tasty Mokka

VAUXHALL MOKKA

## Garrick Hamill

Vauxhall's Mokka has done good business for the Griffin brand in its growing compact Crossover segment. Over half a million examples of this Korean-built contender have found homes across Europe since its original launch in 2013.

But time moves on and so has the competition. This car faces a much stronger challenge now than it did at its original launch.

Hence the introduction of the revised Mokka X model range we're going to look at here.

The changes aren't too far reaching. There's a smarter front end, plus inside, an upgraded cabin that features Vauxhall's clever 'OnStar' connectivity system. Under the bonnet, the car gets the brand's latest, more efficient, 1.6-litre CDTi 'whisper diesel' engines, plus a pokier 1.4-litre petrol unit. A Vauxhall then, that is in every way a car of its time, very much chiming with the new face of a changing brand.

Mokka X buyers are people likely to be enthusiasts for life rather than for cars. So they may not care that this car isn't quite as sharp and wieldy as a rival Nissan Juke, nor does it have the 'big SUV' polish of a comparable Skoda Yeti. Instead, there's a potentially pleasing compromise between the two.

Under the bonnet, there are three main engine options, the most affordable, as ever, being the least desirable of the trio, the 2WD-only 115PS petrol 1.6-litre variant which, with only 155Nm of torque, needs to be rowed



Mokka X buyers are likely to be enthusiasts for life rather than cars. They may not care that it isn't quite as sharp and wieldy as a rival

along a little with the gear lever – a stick that only offers you five speeds. A better bet for petrol people is the 140PS 1.4-litre turbo, now also available with 152PS if you go for a top-spec AWD model with auto transmission.

The most practical engine choice though is the one most buyers will probably select, the 1.6-litre CDTi diesel, now offered with either 110 or 136PS. The pokier version is capable of a top speed of around 117mph and rest to sixty in around 10.3s.

You get all the main mechanical choices with this unit – so you can specify your car with 6-speed manual or automatic transmission and with or without 4WD. Perhaps more importantly, you get a lot more pulling power – 320Nm in all.

Every Mokka X is theoretically capable of towing a braked trailer of up to 1200kg in weight, but this diesel variant is the only one that'll really take such a task in its stride.

So, this Mokka X is a small, trendily-styled five-door little SUV/Crossover isn't it? Well yes. So it'll be priced directly against the other car we tend to think of in this market sector, Nissan's Juke, won't it? Well, no. Vauxhall points out – correctly – that their car is a significantly larger thing – hence the price span for the range that lies in the £17,500 to £27,000 bracket. To put that into perspective for you, that means you'll be probably be paying a price premium of around £3,000 for

this Mokka X over an equivalent Juke. You'll need around £20,000 for the least expensive AWD Mokka X model.

As well as the extra space, you get more kit than you would on that Nissan. There's a choice of four trim levels, 'Active', 'Design Nav', 'Elite' and 'Elite Nav'.

Standard equipment on the mid-range 'Design Nav' models most will choose is impressive and includes 18" alloy wheels on most models, plus LED daytime running lights, front fog lights and silver roof rails on the outside.

Inside the cabin, drivers will benefit from an 8-inch touch screen with Vauxhall's IntelliLink Infotainment system, as well as the innovative OnStar personal connectivity and service assistant.

'Elite Nav' is the top-of-the-range trim and adds a full leather interior, heated front seats and steering wheel, plus tinted rear windows.

Not too long ago, it was hard to think of a more conventional brand than Vauxhall. But that was then. Here's how the company is thinking now: looks a lot more appealing doesn't it? True, this Mokka X still isn't the most dynamic car of its kind: Nor is it as affordable as some might expect – but that's only an issue if your comparison is with something smaller, much less well equipped and probably more feebly powered.

With styling and size almost perfectly pitched, it's practical, well equipped, affordable to run and, in 4x4 form, seasonally capable too. A car with an appeal that builds as your interest in it grows.

The kind of car Vauxhall needs to make for a more fashionable future.



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VAUXHALL



# Mitsubishi ASX new 'dynamic shield' i.d.

MITSUBISHI ASX REVISED FOR 2017



The upper grille connects with the headlamps

By James Parker

Mitsubishi's revised ASX, sports another interpretation of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation's (MMC) new "Dynamic Shield" visual identity.

With over 1,100,000 units produced since its launch in 2010, ASX has proved to be a global success for Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC), as well as a timely development against the ever growing crowd of C-Segment SUV market.

In Europe, it is the second global market with 237,564 units sold since launch, where it remains Mitsubishi Motors' number two seller behind Outlander.

Building on this solid foundation, Mitsubishi Motors continues to improve on this success with steady freshening to keep up with market trends and customers' demand as well as the Brand's own evolution.

## Visual Identity

For a smooth transition towards the next generation of Mitsubishi Motors vehicles, the 2017 ASX boasts Mitsubishi's "Dynamic Shield" – MMC's new visual identity.

Previewed with the 2014 Outlander PHEV Concept-S show car, Dynamic Shield is meant to symbolise the functionality and reassuring safety inherent to Mitsubishi Motors' SUVs, with bold chromed streaks on either side of the grille shielding the Three-Diamond mark to create a 3D suggestion of motion.

In the case of ASX, the front bumper was altered to accommodate the chrome streaks while the central section was blacked-out to mimic New Outlander or eX-Concept. Above, the upper grille is now made of thin black horizontal slats and connects with the headlamps for an integrated look.

This new front face pays respect to both MMC's past and "Form follows Function" philosophy.

It is inherited from the bumper side protection seen historically with Shogun, providing a unique feeling of protection for the people and the car itself.

In that sense, this new front face design expresses design heritage and evolution from that heritage. In addition to this new front face, the European specifications 2017 ASX will also feature a shark fin antenna, a more supportive rear seat padding as well as a new seat material.

These cosmetic changes come on top of the most recent improvements brought to ASX for Europe, such as:

- New 1.6 Turbo Diesel 114 ps engine (w/ Auto Stop & Go, 6 M/T, either 2WD or 4WD)
- Extended service intervals
- New features including 18" alloy wheels, auto-dimming rear view mirror



The new front face pays respect to both MMC's past and 'Form follows Function' philosophy



New ASX will feature a shark fin antenna

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On the face of it, the concept of a Sport Utility Vehicle is a bit farcical. Which sport are you engaging in at the helm of, say, a Land Rover Discovery Sport? If the remit is to get you to the sport, then surely a bus or train would also warrant the sports tag. There really is nothing sporty about these vehicles.

Audi popularised this genre with its Allroad models, Volvo followed with its XC70 but Subaru had them both licked in selling us all-wheel drive estates with just enough off-road ability to get most of us to where we needed to go.

Skoda followed suit with its Octavia Scout models but they never really gained much traction with the car buying public. The third generation Octavia is a far more substantial proposition than its predecessors and this time, the Scout version might well snag some serious orders.

The basics are pretty straightforward. For this sort of car, you really want an estate bodysell, a bit of extra ride height, a brawny diesel engine and the obligatory all-wheel drive mechanicals. Skoda duly delivers, with the engine choice extending to either a 2.0 TDI 150PS with a six-speed manual gearbox or a 2.0 TDI 184PS featuring a six-speed DSG twin-clutch as standard.

The fifth-generation Haldex clutch transmission more accurately distributes torque between the front and rear axles. The ECU monitors your driving (steering angle, throttle position and how heavily you're braking) and delivers what it feels is the correct split of torque to each axle. As soon as a front wheel starts spinning, the clutch is engaged, sending torque to the rear tyres. An electronically locking differential on both axles



Even the entry-level Scout gets alloy wheels



There's a redesigned rear end with black body cladding

helps too, drive being distributed evenly from side to side for optimum grip.

The Scout certainly looks the part, with a distinctive front end that features a silver skid plate and fog lights assembly. There's also a redesigned rear end, with black body cladding added to help keep scuffs off the paintwork while off-roading.

The ride height has been jacked up by a further 33mm, and with a total ride height of 171mm, the Scout has even more ground

clearance than many so-called SUVs such as the Audi Q3.

Rear seat space is generous and so is the amount of room in the back with the 610-litres of space you get in the boot when all the seats are in place. Prices start at just over £25,000, which nets you the 150PS version. You'll need to fork out around £28,000 for the 184PS model with the DSG gearbox, but that's still quite ridiculously good value for money. After all, you can spend well over £27,000 on a manual 1.6-litre diesel Honda Civic

supermini. Ask yourself which is offering you more car and more capability for your money. The Scout's more direct rivals can't really touch this proposition, the base 140PS Passat Alltrack knocking on the door of £30,000 while the Vauxhall Insignia Country Tourer really only comes into contention if you can negotiate a massive discount off the asking price to offset its poorer residuals.

Even the entry-level Scout gets alloy wheels, an eight speaker stereo with a digital radio and Bluetooth compatibility, roof rails, leather

trim for the reach and rake adjustable steering wheel, climate control and a touchscreen infotainment controller. Safety gear includes stability control, hill hold, automatic post collision braking, plus front, side, knee and curtain airbags.

Ascend up the range and you can start fitting features like the DSG twin-clutch gearbox, Alcantara and leather trim, satellite navigation, cruise control, intelligent light assistant, bigger alloys and a remote rear seat fold down facility.

## SKODA OCTAVIA SCOUT



The Scout looks the part, with a distinctive front end that features a silver skid plate and fog lights assembly

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<b>07/07 BMW Z4 3.0 Si Sport 2dr Coupe,</b> 64k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Air Con, E/Seats, E/Windows, CD, Park Sensors <b>£10995/£58 Per Week</b>	<b>10/10 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDi Sport</b> 60k, Mauve with White Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£4995 / £28 Per Week</b>
<b>08/57 Audi TT 2.0 TFSI 2dr S Tronic</b> Convertible Automatic, 55k, Red Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, E/Seat, E/Windows <b>£10495 / £56 Per Week</b>	<b>07/07 Honda Civic 1.8 i-VTEC ES</b> 5dr with Panoramic Roof, ONLY 47k miles, Blue, Alloys, Push Button Start, Air Con, CD, Dual Climate Control, E/Windows <b>£4995 / £28 Per Week</b>
<b>12/62 Vauxhall Antara 2.2 CDTi Exclusiv 4x4</b> Automatic, 47k, White, Alloys, Half Leather, Heated Seats, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£9995 / £53 Per Week</b>	<b>09/58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design</b> 5dr Automatic, 45k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Air-Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£4495 / £23 Per Week</b>
<b>07/57 Mercedes SLK 200K 1.8</b> 2dr Tip Hard-top Convertible Automatic, 56k, Blue, Alloys, Cream Leather, Heated seats, CD, E/Seat <b>£9495 / £50 Per Week</b>	<b>08/58 Toyota Auris 1.6 VVTi SR</b> 5dr, 75k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, E/Windows <b>£3695 / £20 Per Week</b>
<b>12/12 Mini Cooper Coupe</b> 3dr, ONLY 26k miles, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Cream Leather, Air Con, E/Windows, CD Player <b>£8495 / £47 Per Week</b>	<b>08/58 Fiat Bravo 1.9 Multijet Diesel Dynamic</b> 5dr, 61k, Blue, Alloys, CD, Air-Con, E/Windows <b>£3495 / £18 Per Week</b>
<b>09/09 Audi A4 2.0 TDI Diesel 143 SE</b> 5dr Multitronic Auto Estate, 88k, Black, Alloys, Digital Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£8495 / £47 Per Week</b>	<b>02/02 Smart City-Coupe Smart and Pulse Automatic</b> 64k, Black Alloy, Black Leather, Heated Seats, Panoramic Glass Roof, CD, E/Windows <b>£1995</b>

Finance example: 09/58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design, Cash Price £4495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 monthly Payments of £99.60 (£22.98 per week) Total amount payable £6276.00 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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3.0 petrol, 2004, metallic grey, mot'd, FSH, lady owner last 8 year plus, excellent condition, black leather interior, powered seats, alarm, central locking, radio / CD.  
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01384 832293. 07811 111583.

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57 Reg., silver, fsh.  
MoT to September 2017.  
33,000 miles.  
5Dr hatchback.  
CD, AC.  
Excellent condition.  
**£2,650 ono.**  
07715 958800.

**CORSA 1.4 SRI**  
2014, 17,000 miles, red, FSH, VX Body Kit, sat nav, blue tooth  
**£5,250 ono.**  
07890 199368.

**FORD FIESTA**

2007, 32,000 miles, green, electric windows, electric mirrors, fsh, pas, alloys, stereo, CD.  
**£3,200 ono.**  
07885 811762.

**FORD FIESTA ZETEC**  
2005, 56,000 miles, silver, fully serviced, MoT, air con, heated windscreen, petrol.  
**£2,000 ono.**  
07943 388142.

**IMMACULATE**

**FORD FIESTA ZETEC**  
64 Reg, 5-door, ecoboost, one previous owner,  
15,000 miles,  
showroom condition,  
must sell.  
**£5,900**  
07495 087227.

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2013, 55,000 miles, black, Eco-boost, bluetooth, usb, aux, voice command, MoT, £30 road tax, excellent condition!!  
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**FORD GALAXY GHIA LUXURY**

2004, 1.9 TDCi, metallic blue, full leather, top spec plus more, MoT, service history, CD, new tyres, clutch, dual-mass fly-wheel, cam belt and service ready to go. Not usual rubbish. Private car.  
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07971 284856/01746 861841.

**KIA CARENS 7SEATER**  
2009, 74,000 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, FSH, alarm, MoT, central locking, PAS, alloys, CD, roof bars  
**£2,500 ono**  
01902 565425.

**LUXURY MOTOR**

**LEXUS 450 H Hybrid**  
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104,000 miles.  
One private owner.  
Service history.  
**£3,950 ono.**  
07940 771127.  
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AUTOMATIC CONVERTIBLE  
54 reg, 72,000 miles, FSH, Obsidian Black, with cream leather, power hood, panoramic glass roof, anti roll bar wind deflector, alloys, sat nav, Xenon lights, 2 keys, Absolutely pristine.  
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07774 898966.

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07833 645688.

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07980 165680.

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**SOLD.**

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07557 370800.

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MoT February 2017  
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0121 5503899.

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07478 478831

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07982 605805.

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07885 056638.

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07928 679949.

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## 10 Personals

### sports clubs



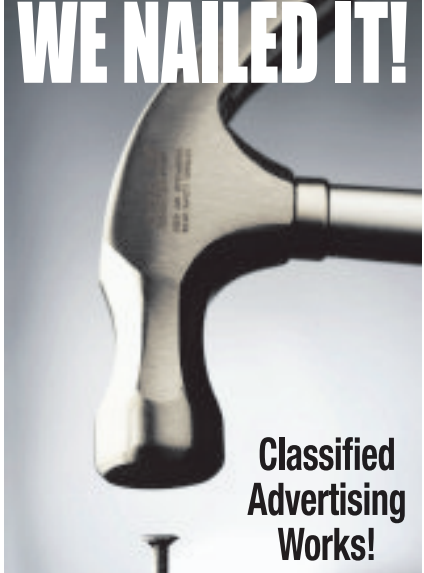
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Mark and Joe Feeham, and Peter Woodfield, front, from left, head up the London Wolves Supporters' Club



London Wolves members celebrate the 50th anniversary with ex-players Mike Bailey and Terry Wharton on Saturday

# Die-hard fans' capital commitment

## SPORT MEMORIES

By Rob Cox

**EVEN** for a group that's 50 years old, this lot have got some outlandish tales.

One of their members has missed only one home game in 40 years, they used to run out of the players' tunnel at Molineux to supporters chanting their name, and they've travelled to matches with players, millionaires and a famous pop star.

Welcome to London Wolves.

The club's oldest supporters' club – and one of the oldest of its kind in the country – is turning 50.

They've experienced dizzying highs and endured devastating lows over the past five decades – and that's before you even get started on the football.

It all began in a very different era. Stuart Earl, who was there from day one and is the club's chairman, takes up the story: "Me and Dave (Slape, current secretary) met on the 9.15 out of Paddington. We saw each other every week and just thought there had to be a cheaper way of doing it, so we set about organising coach travel and it took off from there."

### Switch

Dave added: "I was on the first trip. Two weeks earlier we met Jack Howley, the secretary, with about 12 people saying we wanted to form a club. The first trip was Plymouth (October 22, 1966, a 2-1 home win)."

Football worked very differently back then. London Wolves would be let in to Molineux games for free, with chairman John Ireland believing fans who travelled that far shouldn't have to pay.

They would board a coach from Victoria station, but would switch to train travel after a couple of years, and have a corner of the North Bank allocated to them. Stuart added: "We



Club legend Steve Bull receives a Player of the Year award from London Wolves back in 1986

used to come out of the players' tunnel and the North Bank would chant 'London Wolves' and point at us! It was quite embarrassing."

The club's numbers soon grew. At its peak, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, they had almost 400 members, with the 1981 FA Cup semi-final against Spurs at Hillsborough attracted a record booking of 108 fans. Just a few years later, with Wolves' rapid decline in full flow, things were very different.

Travel secretary Peter Woodfield has been with the club since its formation and still kept attending event in the dark days of the 1980s.

Yes, he even went to all three Chorley FA Cup games. The Magpies beat Wolves 3-0 in a second FA Cup first round replay at Bolton's Burnden Park. "In the Bhatti era you had to be a bit more dedicated!" he said.

"The Third Division, when we were still on our way down, it was a real effort to go to those games."

Mark Feehan joined in 1976, aged 12, after spotting an advert in a Millwall programme.

"You hear people complain today about bad games, but you really had to be a die-hard in the 1980s," he said. "You didn't even know if

they would put a team out some days. We had the conversations about what we'd do if the worst happened and Wolves no longer existed." But London Wolves, like the club, survived – and thrived. Sir Jack Hayward used to travel with them for midweek games (even taking part in Dave's 'guess the score' competition), as did a host of former players.

Dexys Midnight Runners singer Kevin Rowland is a former member, as is BBC presenter Jacqui Oatley.

John Richards is the club's honorary president and the likes of Carl Ikeme, David Ed-

**"We used to come out of the players' tunnel and the North Bank would chant 'London Wolves' and point at us! It was quite embarrassing."**

wards and Karl Henry have travelled back to London with them in recent years.

That's not to say that travelling from London to every game hasn't been without its pitfalls.

There have been several mishaps, delays and breakdowns over the years, even as recently as last season when horrendous motorway traffic forced the group, who travelled to that particular game by coach, to abandon in Sheffield and watch a match in a pub.

Outskirts

Peter, who sorts out the club's bookings and match tickets, added: "There was one at Huddersfield in the 1960s the coach broke down just on the outskirts of Huddersfield and we ended up pushing it up a hill!"

"I'll never forget that. We missed the first 25 minutes of that one," he added.

The 50th anniversary year was marked in style with a golden anniversary dinner at Charlton's ground, The Valley, in July, attended by a host of ex-players and then-boss Kenny Jackett.

A special reception will be held in Molineux's WV1 bar on the day of the Leeds game on Saturday, marking 50 years to the day since that first ever trip.

"I think the reason we all enjoy it so much is the social side of it and the camaraderie," Mark said. "We have a lot of away fans travelling with us too. Brentford brought a bag of Chinese fortune cookies with them the other week to share out. Everyone knows everyone and we're all friends."

Stuart added: "My mother thought I'd grow out of it, but 50 years later I'm still here."



The London Wolves football team faces the camera for a line-up shot in the 1980s



Jacqui Oatley is a former London Wolves member



Kevin Rowland was also one part of the club



# Sport

## Marking 50 golden years of supporting Wolves

### Page 39



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## Fireworks on agenda as boxing back

PROFESSIONAL boxing returns to The Venue in Dudley on Friday, November 4 with fireworks expected on the evening before Bonfire Night.

A seven-bout card will welcome the fighters back to the High Street building with a bang.

Netherton's Les Byfield has home advantage on the PJ Promotions show bill. The 29-year-old is looking for his sixth win in his seventh fight.

Returning to the ring is Tipton's Ricky Summers, who will be back in action after exactly seven months out of the ring. His last bout came under the lights at The Venue, outpointing gatekeeper Carl Wild in a coming-of-age fight to claim a British Challenge title.

The light heavyweight, 29, retains a flawless record of 11 straight victories, with four inside-the-distance and could soon be knocking on the door for national honours again.

Redditch's Andrew Robinson will be looking to get back to winning ways, after a narrow defeat to Sam Sheedy in a British middleweight title eliminator.

Four other prospects also feature on the bill including Rowley Regis' Tyler Denny. The left-handed middleweight, 25, has somehow recorded two draws in a row against Simone Lucas and Christian Hoskin-Gomez, but remains unbeaten after five outings.

There's a PJ Promotions bow for Telford's Tony Jones, 25, who boxes in the Black Country for the first time in his seventh pro affair. Another new face to PJ Promotions' events is busy welterweight CJ Challenger, from Leicester.

Completing the line-up is Bartley Green's Kane Baker, who competes in his second pro bout at super lightweight.

Tickets, at £35 and £50 ringside, are available from promoter Paul 'PJ' Rowson on 07976 283 157.

## Glassboys pay the penalty as chance is saved at death

**Blyth Spartans 2 Stourbridge 1**  
STOURBRIDGE were denied an Evo-Stik Premier point when a penalty from Luke Benbow was saved – the last action of the match.

Nathan Buddle gave Blyth the lead just before the half-hour-mark when he leapt to meet Stephen Turnbull's corner and put his header past Matt Gould in the Stourbridge goal.

The hosts increased their lead when Robbie Dale unleashed what looked a speculative strike at goal which Gould left, believing it was going for wide, only for it to fly in.

On 52 minutes Stourbridge got a goal back through Benbow who picked the ball up on the left and unleashed a shot from 20 yards which flew across a diving McHugh and into the top corner.

Four minutes into injury time Blyth substitute Michael Richardson handled in the area but McHugh blocked Benbow's shot with his legs.

Stourbridge slipped out of the Birmingham Senior Cup on Monday night. Stratford grabbed the only goal on 60 minutes through Will Grocutt.

## Late White kick spares Stour blushes

Stourbridge 19 Wharfedale 8

STOUR started well and appeared in control, but from the half hour mark they misfired all the way to the finish line. Defeat to the Dalesmen looked likely until a late Luke White penalty.

White had a simple knock-over to open the scoring after referee Alex Thomas spotted flanker Rob Baldwin offside at a scrum.

When captain Ciaran Moore broke through the fringe defences he was pulled down just short, scrum half Ben Tibbetts moved the ball quickly to flanker Billy Harding whose cut-out pass found partner Nigel Mukarat in space to

Rugby

cross in the corner. White landed a difficult conversion. Wharfedale outside half James Guy hit back straight from the restart but White's kick re-established a 10-point lead, which was then increased. It was 16-8 at half-time as Will Lawn touched down but Guy couldn't convert. White added the only score of the second half.

**Stourbridge Lions 58 Stafford 13**  
CENTRE Will Hollis marked his first game with two tries, there were two more for Chase Edwards, two for Scott Langdon and one each for

George Tildesley and Owen Williams who also kicked two penalties and five conversions.

● Stourbridge has signed up to the RFU 'Return to Rugby' initiative, aimed at encouraging players who have left the sport to get back into training and to turn out for the odd game.

The club is asking people in the local area to get back into playing, or even to throw a rugby ball around for the first time and is holding regular Wednesday night training sessions, supported by RFU coaches. The next session is on November 23, from 7.30pm and will be hosted by RFU Regional Development Officer, Adam Blackford.

For more information, call 01384 395000.

# SAM THE MAN CLAIMS BOUT

**SAM Eggington claimed the bragging rights over Frankie Gavin – but the giant-killing came from Craig Cunningham over Anthony Ogogo.**

In the big grudge match over 12 rounds at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena, only Stourbridge's Eggington, 23, could win the WBC International welterweight title, regardless of the result.

Come the eighth, Eggington managed to get a big uppercut through the guard, with Gavin slumping to the mat. Loughlin began his count and, seeing the fallen fighter too hurt to continue, waved him off.

Medical attention was called for and, after a brief period of treatment, Gavin regained his senses and congratulated his nemesis. There was just 18 seconds of the round left.

Meanwhile, Cunningham claimed a stunning upset for the WBC International crown at middleweight with the scalp of Ogogo, Olympic bronze medalist and undefeated professional.

### Behind

Again, it came in the eighth, where Ogogo was retired by his corner complaining of blurred vision. He was also behind on the cards, though.

Halesowen's Lennox Clarke followed the top of the bill in the Saturday night show staged by Eddie Hearn's Matchroom Boxing. His six-rounder with Adam Jones was dropped to four, with Clarke taking the bout on points.

Don Broadhurst claim the English super flyweight crown in an entertaining tussle with Louis Norman, while Sean Davis claimed the WBC International belt at super bantam, outpointing late call-up Paul Economides.

British super flyweight champion Kal Yafai featured in an eight-rounder, seeing off Tellez Johnson with 12 seconds of round three left.

Andy Keates successfully defended the Midlands light welterweight title on points against Jordan Cooke. Robbie Barrett claimed the English lightweight strap, going the distance with Marcus French. Brian Rose shut out Stilian Kostov, Cori Gibbs whitewashed Michael Mooney and Joe Sherriff used four rounds to remove Tzvetozar Iliev. Ryan Kelly defeated Tommy Cart-erand Sam Bowen removed Reynaldo Mora.



Sam Eggington, left, on his way to knocking out Frankie Gavin in Birmingham

## Snooker scene hit by death of veteran

THE local snooker scene is in mourning following the sudden death of Ken Garlick, aged 78.

He died on October 11 and the funeral service was taking place yesterday (Wednesday) at Gornal Crematorium.

Mr Garlick played for a number of teams including King-swinford Conservative Club,

Kingswinford Snooker Centre and Stourbridge Institute.

He was still a very active member at the Institute, and will be sadly missed – but much remembered with great fondness.

Although a very useful player, Mr Garlick will also be remembered for his considerable coach-

ing skills which were of benefit to many local players, particularly at Dudley Snooker Club over 30 years ago, and for his help and guidance to other aspiring and established coaches.

He worked for many years in the Midlands steel industry after moving to the area from his native Yorkshire.

## Blizzard is blazing trail by the coast

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club had their first opportunity to run around a muddy field at the weekend with the first fixture of the cross country season, the Midlands Cross Country Relays at Wolverhampton.

With clubs travelling from all over the Midlands area to compete, the blue hoops were rubbing shoulders with the local heavyweights of Coventry Godiva, Tipton Harriers, Notts AC, Rugby & Northants and the hosts, Wolverhampton & Bilston.

With each club fielding teams of four runners with each runner completing a 6k leg of 2 x 3k laps around fields there were plenty of ups and downs and twists. But those looking for mud were disappointed as the course was bone dry. Stuart Perkins got the event under way on the first leg running 24.03 to place the hoops in 24th of the 69 clubs competing in the Senior Men's race. Simon Hughes ran the second leg in 25.50 with the club dropping to 27th at the changeover, Rob Sannwald was off third and clocked 25.32 with the club losing a place in 28th and Dave Norman, fresh from a marathon six days earlier, moved the club up to a finishing position of 26th in 25.55.

Darran Bishop got the Masters team on the board with a 25.32 first leg in 11th out of 24 over 40s teams, Andy Morrison ran 31.33 to place the club 17th, Richard Jones dropped a place to 18th with a 29.27 third leg and John Andrews moved the club up to a final finishing position of 15th with a 31.00 last leg.

Simon Blizzard decided to avoid the mud with a trip to the seaside taking part in the Great South Run, a 10 miles race from Portsmouth, along the coast and back to a sea front finish. He clocked a time of 1.05.52 to place a very respectable 306th position.

## Anderson's magic moment seals win

**Halesowen Town 1 Warrington Town 0**  
YELTZ bounced back to winning ways with a moment of magic from leading striker Kaiman Anderson in a hard-fought victory.

The kick-off was delayed due to M6 traffic troubles and when play finally began Warrington's Anderson grabbed the solitary winning goal for the Yeltz in the 34th minute with a spectacular overhead kick into the top corner after Kennedy Digie headed the ball back across goal.

Halesowen's defence held firm as Warrington upped the pressure in the final stages.

★★★

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# Fantastic news for all home owners

# COUSINS' MULTI

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Exciting new developments, plus significant investment and restructuring mean that Cousins Furniture need to clear millions of pounds worth of stock from their warehouses and showrooms with immediate effect.

**For 3 Days, this Friday, Saturday & Sunday**

**Cousins have been closed all week**, because staff have been working around the clock handling vast quantities of incoming stock from their suppliers & warehouses, including the leading brands. Consignments will continue to arrive daily and all the price tickets have been reduced to a fraction of the normal price for this Massive Clearance Event.

#### POSITIVE TRENDS MIXED WITH UNCERTAINTY.

A combination of the continuing increase in big ticket furniture sales, together with the drop in sterling's currency valuation plus some unprecedented business opportunities have all led to the need for this dramatic clear out of stock.

It's been well documented that High street sales have experienced a definite upturn. Cousins are no exception, with furniture sales flourishing as the economy comes out of recession. Increased buoyancy in the housing market, property refurbishments and extensions have all contributed, along with a general feel good factor. Consumers are definitely returning to household projects and plans that may have been put on hold during years of uncertainty.

"Our customers are investing in both quality and brand assurance. People are becoming more adventurous in the styles that they're purchasing" said John Shotton, Managing Director.

However, this is now mixed with uncertainty, as the UK's June Brexit Referendum has led to a dramatic devaluing of the pound against foreign currencies, which will potentially result in significant price increases on the High Street, with furniture being no exception.

#### MASSIVE OPPORTUNITIES.

With this in mind and in an attempt to beat this inevitable price rise, Cousins have bulk purchased enormous volumes of stock and negotiated fantastic short term discounts from many of their brand leading suppliers to offer the buying public a phenomenal opportunity to purchase quality furniture at unbelievable discounted prices and beat any potential price increase. This applies to both stock and special orders.

#### FANTASTIC STOCK DEALS.

Furthermore as a member of the prestigious "Associated Independent Stores" Buying Group, Cousins have used their combined purchasing power to obtain some fantastic stock deals on accessories, homewares and carpets. In-store concession Hammonds will also be joining in the Extravaganza.

#### A NEW OPPORTUNITY.

In September, Cousins proudly introduced new flagship "Lounge Company" galleries into their Manchester and Birmingham stores, part of an exciting and exclusive partnership with market leading brand Parker Knoll. This exciting new venture showcases the very

best in contemporary sofa styles and enables a customer to experience and configure their preferences, either instore or online, utilising the most up to date fabrics and leathers.

#### CONTINUED SUCCESS AND EXPANSION.

Cousins have also further expanded their unique "Bespoke Upholstery" departments, which enable consumers to solve any seating dilemma they may have. Whether its design, dimensions, comfort levels or fabric covering a customer can design a sofa, chair or corner group to exactly match their needs. This is a service that isn't generally available on the High Street and certainly meets a significant demand.

#### WAREHOUSE RESTRUCTURING.

Both online and offline, Cousins' will be enhancing the shopping experience. The recent completion of an in-house photography studio will vastly improve the quality and variety of their website imagery. It also necessitates the need to clear part of the main warehouse along with the associated stock, to accommodate the facility, putting even greater urgency on the success of the Clearance Event.

#### STOCK ARRIVING DAILY - EVERYTHING MUST GO.

This tremendous need to clear stock from suppliers, their warehouses plus in-store mean that consignments will continue to arrive daily, and be marked down to prices for immediate Clearance and delivery due to the

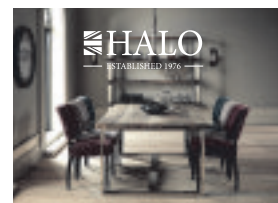
enormous pressure for space. "We need to clear this stock as soon as possible with everything available for immediate delivery. It really is a case of everything must go" said John Shotton. "We are delighted to offer our customers more choice than ever before. These are some of the biggest savings we have ever offered and expect people to take full advantage"

#### MADE TO ORDER.

Cousins have even dramatically reduced all made to order items, so you can choose exactly what size or colours suits your home. Their expert team of sales people will be on hand to ensure you make the right decision at the best price. "We are expecting this to be our busiest event of the year from the minute the doors open. With many one-off bargains and unrepeatable deals it really will be a case of first come first served" said John Shotton, Managing Director.

## Their Biggest Ever CLEARANCE EVENT

starts on Friday at 10am - offering the General Public a fantastic opportunity to save up to 70% on a massive range of furniture, carpets, beds and homewares.



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